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Assembly Proceedings

Official Report

Bengal Legislative Assembly

Eighteenth Session, 1944

The 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 20th, 21st, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th March, 1944

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble RICHARD GARDINER CASEY, C.H., D.S.O., M.C.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN, K.C.I.E., in charge of the Home (Civil Defence Co-ordination) Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY, in charge of the Department of Civil Supplies.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI, in charge of the Finance Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN, in charge of the Education Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN, in charge of the Department of Communications and Works.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN, in charge of the Department of Agriculture (Rural Reconstruction).

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA, M.B.E., in charge of the Revenue Department (Evacuation and Relief).

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur, in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Departments.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN, C.B.E., in charge of the Departments of Commerce, Labour and Industries (including Postwar Reconstruction).

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA, in charge of the Forests and Excise Department.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD, in charge of the Department of Public Health and Local Self-Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK, in charge of the Publicity Department.

The Hon'ble Mr JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL, in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SPEAKER.

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI.

DEPUTY SPEAKER.

SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY, Esq.

SECRETARY.

K. ALI AFZAL, Esq., Barrister-at-law.

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THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

Official Report of the Eighteenth Session.

Volume LXVII—No. 3.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 13th March, 1944, at 3-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 13 Hon'ble Ministers and 197 Members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Basis of declaring a district as surplus one.

*153. **Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the criteria applied by the Government in declaring a district to be a "surplus" or a "deficit" one; and

(*b*) whether he is aware that the price of paddy goes up as soon as a district is declared a "surplus" one?

MINISTER in charge of the DEPARTMENT of CIVIL SUPPLIES (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) A district is regarded as "surplus" when the estimated yield exceeds the estimated consumption, and as "deficit" when the estimated consumption exceeds the estimated yield.

(*b*) No.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there has been any other meaning attached to the term "surplus" by the Civil Supplies Directorate than the dictionary meaning quoted here?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, Sir. There is no other meaning.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that certain districts are called "surplus" merely because they are supposed to have a certain quantity of paddy and rice for sale?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, Sir. That nomenclature has been thrown overboard long ago.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the estimates of yield so far have not been correctly ascertained admittedly by the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: An estimated yield is not an ascertained yield.

Khan Bahadur ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reliable materials and data for obtaining the estimated yield or estimated consumption.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Materials there are many. Materials for estimated consumption are population, with a certain amount of deduction for infants, and materials for estimated yield are the possible acreage and the quantity of production per acre.

Khan Bahadur ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the machinery through which these materials are obtained?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: There are a large number of factors and there are different machineries for giving us information regarding various factors. For instance, as regards human beings the factor is that of census which has taken place. As regards acreage the factor is the Agriculture Department reports and the settlement reports.

Khan Bahadur ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: And as regards yields?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: As regards yield settlement reports and the Agriculture Department reports and visual reports.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the freedom of export is confined to the margin of excess or to the entire yield?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: There is no freedom of export from the cordoned districts.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: But where there is freedom of export?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, it is not confined to any margin of excess.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether a district is declared "surplus" year by year or permanently?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It has so been declared this year.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if at the time of estimating the yield with a view to declaring a district as surplus these two factors, viz., the quantity held over from previous stock as well as the quantity that is likely to have been exported out of the district, are also taken into consideration?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No; these are not taken into consideration.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps will the Government take when on account of unrestricted export from a surplus district that district itself will be turned into a deficit district?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not anticipate that there will ever be so much export from any district as to turn it into a deficit district, but if it ever does happen, then Government will take steps to reimburse that district with any foodgrains in its possession.

Price of rice in Calcutta, Dinajpur and Chandpur on certain dates.

***154. Mr. ASHUTOSH LAHIRI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Civil Supplies be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing the price of rice as stood—

(*a*) on 15th of March, 1943,
(*b*) on 30th of March, 1943,
(*c*) on 30th of April, 1943,
(*d*) on 30th of May, 1943, and
(*e*) on 15th of June, 1943,

in Calcutta, Dinajpur and Chandpur?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: A statement is laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to starred question No. 154.

Prices per maund of rice on the following dates.

(*a*)
15th March, 1943.

	Coarse	Medium.	Fine.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Calcutta	19 6 6	21 6 3	23 9 0
Dinajpur	12 14 0	13 6 0	14 8 0
Chandpur	18 0 0	18 4 0	..

(*b*)
30th March, 1943.

	Coarse.	Medium.	Fine.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Calcutta	22 0 9	24 1 9	26 1 9
Dinajpur	20 0 0	20 4 0	..
Chandpur	28 12 0	28 12 0	29 12 0

(*c*)
30th April, 1943.

	Coarse.	Medium.	Fine.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Calcutta	21 0 9	22 8 0	24 13 9
Dinajpur	26 0 0	26 8 0	27 0 0
Chandpur	34 0 0	34 12 0	34 12 0

(*d*)
30th May, 1943.

	Coarse.	Medium.	Fine.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Calcutta	30 6 0	32 8 0	35 8 0
Dinajpur	23 0 0 to 28 8 0	23 0 0 to 28 8 0	24 0 0 to 29 0 0
Chandpur	31 0 0	32 0 0	..

(*e*)
15th June, 1943.

	Coarse.	Medium.	Fine.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Calcutta	32 0 0	33 8 0	35 4 0
Dinajpur	29 0 0	29 8 0	30 0 0
Chandpur	31 4 0	..	32 0 0

Selling of rice in Hooghly-Chinsura Municipal area.

***155. Mr. RADHANATH DAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some quantity of rice is being sold within the Hooghly-Chinsura Municipal area by one Mr. D. N. Mandal from different shops?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether—

(*i*) the said Mr. Mandal is one of the selected agents for supplying rice belonging to Goverment at controlled rate; and

(*ii*) it is a purely private enterprise?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*)(*i*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether there is any agency to check the accounts of the different shop; and

(*ii*) the arrangement made to inspect their work?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any complaints against the work of some of these centres have been received by Government?

(*e*) If so, what action has been taken in the matter?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) No. Cheap grain shops have been established by Government. The detailed arrangements for the distribution of ration cards to individual house-holders who deserve the grant of facilities for a supply of rice at concession rates and the selection of centres have been entrusted to a committee of non-officials, with Mr. D. N. Mondal at their head.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) (*i*) Does not arise. The consolidated account of the shops is checked periodically by local officers.

(*ii*) There are arrangements for the inspection of shops by local officers.

(*d*) Local officers have received two formal complaints about the rudeness of some of the salesmen and favouritism in the matter of issue of some ration cards.

(*e*) Enquiries have been made but the allegations have been found to be highly exaggerated. It may be noted that the distributors are all honorary workers, and no margin of profit whatsoever is allowed to any of them.

Requisition of paddy and rice by Covernment under Defence of India Rules.

***156. Mr. ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state -

(*a*) what quantity of rice and wheat was confiscated by Government as anti-hoarding measure from April 1, 1943; and

(*b*) how they were distributed or disposed of?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) Government did not confiscate any wheat or rice. The following quantities of rice and paddy were, however, requisitioned under the Defence of India Rules:—

(*i*) Rice—528,853 maunds.

(*ii*) Paddy—716,888 maunds.

(*b*) Requisitioned stocks were acquired and distributed as follows:—

(*i*) Small quantities by sale in the open market.

(*ii*) Through controlled shops or approved distributors for sale to the public at subsidised rates varying from Rs.15 to Rs.16 per maund.

(*iii*) For distribution as gratuitous relief

(*iv*) In payment of test relief works.

(*v*) For movement to other districts.

(*vi*) Small quantities by way of supplies to priorities like jails, the Police, A.R.P. and Government employees' shops.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state at what prices the rice and paddy were requisitioned? He stated that they were sold to the public at subsidised rates.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: At subsidised rates varying from Rs. 15 to Rs. 16.

Mr. A. F. STARK: I want to know at what rates were the paddy and rice requisitioned there.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: The rates were much higher than the subsidised rates, but I cannot give you the exact prices at which they were requisitioned

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the principle used by Government in deciding on the rates to be paid for rice and paddy requisitioned?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Generally prices were paid at the market rate by Government, but cost and other things were taken into consideration by Government while making payment of the price.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether price of rice seized by Government has been paid to the respective people from whom it was requisitioned?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Yes, it has been paid.

Profiteering made by sugar and kerosene oil permit-holders in Mulagram Union of Tippera.

***157. Mr. MAQBUL HOSSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether the people of the Mulagram Union, police-station Kasba in the district of Tippera, submitted a petition to the Subdivisional Officer, Brahmanberia, Tippera, on 27th August, 1943, by registered post drawing his attention to —

(*i*) the profiteering made by the sugar permit-holders of the union, and

(*ii*) the inadequate supply of kerosene oil and its irregular distribution?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any local enquiry into the matter has been made so far?

(*c*) If no enquiry has been made, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the President of the union and a Government offic realised Rs.25 and Rs.20 on 23rd August, 1943, and 10th August, 19

respectively, in presence of some leading gentlemen of the union from the sugar permit-holders and encouraged profiteering?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the quantity of sugar received by sugar permit-holders in each consignment.

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) Voluntary subscriptions were realised by the President of the Union from all well-to-do persons in the locality for the maintenance of a free gruel kitchen. One Jogesh Pal, a sugar permit-holder, appears to have paid a donation of Rs.25. No payment appears to have been made by any other sugar permit-holder in the locality. There was no encouragement of profiteering.

(*e*) The quantities of sugar issued to sugar permit-holders in the union during the months of September and October were as follows:—

(*i*) Jogesh Pal—August, 2 bags; October, 3 bags.

(*ii*) Nurul Islam Bhuiyan—September, 4 bags; October, 4 bags.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any receipt was granted to Mr. Jogesh Pal?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: Yes.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who actually made the enquiry?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: The Subdivisional Officer.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether he examined any persons?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: I suppose he did.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether the petitioner who actually made the allegations was examined also?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: I want notice.

Number of deaths from starvation in Rangpur district.

***158. Mr. ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state the number of persons who died in the district of Rangpur in 1943 from starvation due to scarcity of supply of food?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): Four hundred and forty-six deaths caused by starvation were reported during the period of scarcity in 1943.

Khan Bahadur ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the period of scarcity meant by this answer?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Generally it has been counted from July to December, 1943.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the source of his information?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Information has been received from the local authorities.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House what he means by local authorities?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: District Magistrate.

Damaged foodstuffs sold by Government.

*158. **Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH SEN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that from time to time damaged foodstuffs are being sold by the Government Department of Civil Supplies, either by public auction or otherwise?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing the total quantity of each kind of such damaged foodstuffs like (1) rice, (2) *atta*, (3) flour, (4) dal, (5) sugar sold by the Government—

(*i*) by the issue of open tender,
(*ii*) by public auction, and
(*iii*) by other means

from January, 1943, up to 15th January, 1944?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that on the 12th January, 1944, the Controller of Rationing, Calcutta, issued a public notice notifying sale by public auction of damaged foodgrains in the following quantities:—Rice 242 maunds, dal 51 maunds, and *atta* 178 maunds?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how these foodgrains became damaged; and
(*ii*) who is responsible for this sad state of affairs?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) Damaged foodstuffs mixed up together for use as fodder have been sold by Government by public auction only once until now.

(*b*) (*i*) Nil.

			Md.	sr.	ch.
(*ii*)	Rice	..	226	8	8
	Atta	..	98	21	0
	Flour	..		Nil	
	Dal	..	37	25	0
	Sugar	..	10	29	0

(*iii*) Nil.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) (*i*) By heavy showers in transit and also by climatic conditions. In handling, a certain quantity usually gets damaged in course of time. The quantity damaged in the present case is not more than half per cent. of the total quantity handled. The usual proportion allowed by the trade is 3 per cent. of the quantity handled.

(*ii*) Such slight damage is inevitable in any business in foodgrains; no individual can therefore be held responsible.

Rules for confiscation of paddy by Government.

***160. Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the rules under which confiscation of paddy is made; and

(*ii*) the quantity of paddy that may be kept by the producers for their consumption?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of widely publishing the rules of confiscation?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*)(*i*) Confiscation, *i.e.*, appropriation of stocks without payment of any compensation, is a penalty which can only be ordered by a court of law in cases when an offender is prosecuted for a contravention of the Foodgrains Control Order, 1942, or the Bengal Essential Foodgrains Possession and Storage Order, 1944.

(*ii*) No limit has been laid down in the case of producers in respect of their own produce.

(*b*) In view of the answer to (*a*)(*i*), publicity does not appear to be necessary.

Khan Bahadur HAJI BADI AHMED CHOUDHURY : Supplementary question, Sir, নিজের উৎপন্ন ধান্য ৫০ মণের উপরে হইলে তার জন্য লাইসেন্স লওয়ার আবশ্যক হইবে কি?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD : জি, না।

Khan Bahadur HAJI BADI AHMED CHOUDHURY : কিন্তু ৮১ ধারামতে Hon'ble Minister খান বাহাদুর জালালুদ্দিন আহমদ সাহেবের সহোদর ভ্রাতা কবিরুদ্দিন সাহেব ও চট্টগ্রামের গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্লীডারকে ফৌজদারীতে সোপর্দ্দ করা হইয়াছে কেন?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD : Sir, I cannot understand the question

Mr. SPEAKER : খান বাহাদুর সাহেব, আপনি চেঁচিয়ে ভালো কোরে বলুন।

Khan Bahadur HAJI BADI AHMED CHOUDHURY : ৫০ মণের অধিক ধান্য থাকার দরুণ উৎপন্নকারীর লাইসেন্সের দরকার হবে না, অথচ লাইসেন্স না লওয়ার দরুণ Hon'ble Minister এর সহোদর ভ্রাতা কবিরুদ্দিন সাহেবকে এবং চট্টগ্রামের গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্লীডার যামিনীকান্ত ঘোষালকে ফৌজদারীতে দেওয়া হইয়াছে কি না মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কি তাহা বলিবেন?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD : Hon'ble Minister তা' জানেন না, তিনি নিজে কোন লাইসেন্স issue করেন না।

Khan Bahadur HAJI BADI AHMED CHOUDHURY : Sir, আমার প্রশ্নের কোন উত্তর হলো না।

Mr. SPEAKER : আপনার প্রশ্ন ভাল বোঝা যায় না; আপনি স্পষ্ট কোরে চেঁচিয়ে বলুন।

Khan Bahadur HAJI BADI AHMED CHOUDHURY : এখানে answer এ (a) (ii)তে বলা হয়েছে নিজের উৎপন্ন ধানোর ৫০ মণের অধিক পরিমাণ হইলেও লাইসেন্স লওয়ার আবশ্যক হবে না কিন্তু কক্সবাজারের S. D. O. কেন লাইসেন্স নেওয়া হয় নাই এই জন্য Hon'ble Minister খান বাহাদুর জালালুদ্দিন সাহেবের সহোদর ভ্রাতা কবিরুদ্দিন সাহেবকে এবং চট্টগ্রামের গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্লীডার যামিনীকান্ত ঘোষালকে ফৌজদারীতে দিয়াছেন কি না?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD : সে সম্বন্ধে গভর্ণমেণ্টের কোন খবর নাই।

Khan Bahadur HAJI BADI AHMED CHOUDHURY : আমি নিজে গভর্ণমেণ্টকে খবর—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

Khan Bahadur HAJI BADI AHMED CHOUDHURY : আমি স্বয়ং Hon'ble Minister of Civil Supplyকে খবর দিয়াছি কিন্তু—

Mr. SPEAKER : এ সম্বন্ধে এরূপ প্রশ্ন চলিবে না। Please sit down.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY : Is it a fact that our honourable friend informed the Government about the prosecution ?

Mr. SPEAKER : That is no supplementary question.

Alleged caning of a chaukidar by Additional Relief Officer of Bhagwanpur.

***161. Dr. GOBINDA CHANDRA BHAWMIK:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on the 12th July, 1943, the Additional Relief Officer of Bhagwanpur, Egra and Potashpur, caned Haradhan Bera, the chaukidar of Union No. 12, because he reported a few cases of death from starvation?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea): (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Is it a fact that the Chaukidar was beaten?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I have already said "no".

Khan Bahadur SHAH ABDUR RAUF: Did anybody complain about the alleged caning of the Chaukidar?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Government have no such information.

Retirement or death of Lino Operators in the Bengal Government Press.

***162. Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Lino Operators of the Bengal Government Press either die or retire before they reach the pension period?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) when the Linotype Department of the Bengal Government Press was started;

(*ii*) how many operators retired with pension since the starting of the department;

(*iii*) how many retired on medical ground;

(*iv*) how many died during their service period; and

(*v*) how many operators who began their service with the start of the department are still in service?

(*d*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of granting full pension to Lino Operators before they have completed the prescribed period of service?

(*e*) If not, why not?

MINISTER in charge of the FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra Goswami): (*a*) No.

(*b*), (*d*) and (*e*) Do not arise.

(*c*)(*i*) 1914.

(*ii*), (*iii*) and (*v*) Nil.

(*iv*) Three.

Ordinance II of 1942 and appeal of Bengal Government to Privy Council.

***162A.** (SHORT NOTICE.) **Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of Bengal have appealed to the Privy Council against the concurrent decisions of the High Court and the Federal Court against the validity of some sections of Ordinance II of 1942 otherwise called the Special Courts Ordinance?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether—

(*i*) the present Ministry was consulted in this matter; and

(*ii*) the present Ministry considered it desirable to file the appeal?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(Answers to which were laid on the table)

Shortage of live-stock.

67. Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Veterinary Department be pleased to state whether Government are aware that great difficulty is being felt in various parts of the Province, particularly in rural areas, for the want of suitable quality and number of live-stock, specially cows, bullocks and buffaloes, for milking purposes as well as for agricultural work and transport?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any attempt has been made to ascertain the reasons for this shortage and to remedy the situation?

(*c*) Is it a fact that during the last few months live-stock from rural areas are being steadily sold out at high prices and are being taken to unknown destinations?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Government of Bihar have, in view of similar situation happening there, issued orders prohibiting the sale or removal of prime cows and buffaloes and calves and bullocks of certain ages from the Province?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, the Government of Bengal have taken or propose to take in order to prevent the denudation of rural Bengal of necessary supply of cattle and buffaloes in future?

MINISTER in charge of the ACRICULTURE and VETERINARY DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain): (*a*) Yes. Government are aware that in certain areas considerable difficulty is being experienced in getting suitable cattle both for cultivation and transport and also milch cows.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Government are aware that in rural areas the prices of cattle have abnormally risen, but I have no information that they are being taken to unknown destinations.

(*d*) No, but an inquiry is being made of the Government of Bihar.

(*e*) Yes. Action is being taken.

The honourable member's attention is invited to the answer given to clause (*b*) of unstarred question No. 57 on the 28th February, 1944.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action has been taken since the 28th February, 1944, when in reply to an unstarred question (No. 57) assurance was practically given that the matter was receiving the urgent attention of Government?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Government has sanctioned a liberal grant for advancing loans for the purchase of cattle by the agriculturists and they are also carrying on negotiations with the Bihar Government for permitting some plough cattle to be imported into Bengal. They are also considering whether in Bengal they should not declare one or two meatless days in a week?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that we are obtaining some livestock from Australia?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I am not aware.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that the present Governor is helping to get livestock from Australia?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I am not aware.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a newspaper report to that effect?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: No.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the amount of loan that is being given to help the purchase of cattle?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: 50 lakhs of rupees have been sanctioned immediately. We are also going to sanction a further amount for importing cattle from Bihar.

Khan Bahadur SHAH ABDUR RAUF: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps are being taken by the Government to check the abnormal rise in the price of cattle?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: The rise was due to dearth or scarcity. Government have not taken any step to control the price.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what amount is going to be given to each cultivator and if it is enough to purchase one head of cattle or a quarter of a head of a cattle?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Our instruction is that on an average Rs. 150 will be given to each individual cultivator.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why the Government of Bengal is making an enquiry of the Government of Bihar? Have they any definite policy behind it?

Mr. SPEAKER: How does that question arise?

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: With reference to question (*d*), namely, is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Government of Bihar have, in view of similar situation happening there, issued orders prohibiting the sale or removal of prime cows and buffaloes and calves and bullocks of certain ages from the province, the answer is, no. I want to know as to why then an enquiry is being made of the Government of Bihar?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I am sorry the answer, as it was drafted long ago, is not quite correct At that time the enquiry was not finished, but now that the enquiry has been finished the reply is, "Yes, some such orders have been passed by the Government of Bihar."

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Government be pleased to state whether Government have any intention to make an Ordinance or any such like thing to prohibit the sale or removal of prime cows and buffaloes and calves and bullocks of certain ages from the province?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Government are seriously considering the matter, and, as I have already said, they are contemplating taking some such action.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Do Government propose to take steps to control the price of plough cattle to be imported from Bihar?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: The question of importation of cattle does not yet arise because Bihar has put a ban on it and therefore we cannot get cattle from there.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Do I not understand from the reply of the Hon'ble Minister that he was going to import plough cattle from Bihar?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: We are only negotiating with the Government of Bihar to lift the ban in our favour.

Distribution of standard cloth.

68. Khan Bahadur Maulvi HASHEM ALI KHAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the present position of the standard cloth in Bengal; and

(*ii*) whether any such cloth has been distributed anywhere in Bengal?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing district by district—

(*i*) the number of pieces of cloth distributed; and

(*ii*) the agents appointed for the purpose?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps have been adopted in selecting—

(*i*) the districts; and

(*ii*) the persons

for receiving the standard cloth for sale?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) (*i*) 179·08 million yards of standard cloth have been allotted to Bengal by the Central Government up to the end of January, 1944. Out of this quantity orders have been booked by the Textile Commissioner with the mills for 129·44 million yards. 48·07 million yards have been actually received up to the 12th February last. The cloth received has been despatched or programmed for despatch to all the districts of the Province

(*ii*) Yes; in every district in Bengal.

(*b*) (*i*) Figures regarding actual distribution in districts are not readily available. It is estimated that a total of about 32 million yards has been distributed up to date.

(*ii*) Retail distributors have been selected from amongst local bodies (District Boards, Municipalities, Union Boards), reputable charitable institutions and reliable dealers Supplies have also been made available to large employers for distribution to their low paid employees.

(*c*) (*i*) Allocation to districts is made on a population basis.

(*ii*) *Vide* answer to (*b*) (*ii*).

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the total allotted quantity of standard cloth, namely, 179·08 million yards are likely to be actually received by this province and distributed in the rural areas?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: 179·08 million yards of standard cloth——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The figures are there. Let me make the question clear. The point is that 179·08 million yards of standard cloth have been allotted to Bengal by the Central Government, and against that so far only 48·07 million yards have been actually received up to the 12th February last, and so far the Government have got the orders booked only up to 129·44 million yards. Now, my question is, when can we expect the allotment of Bengal to arrive in Bengal and distributed in the rural areas?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Every effort is being made to expedite the arrival of the allotted quantity, but it depends entirely on the Government of India.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the actual reason for this great disparity between the allotment order and the actual arrival?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Difficulties of transport.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government of Bengal have actually requisitioned the necessary conveyances for the transport of standard cloth to this province?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: It rests absolutely with the Government of India.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in reply to a question regarding transport facilities in the matter of movement of foodgrains in Jessore district, the Hon'ble Member in charge of War Transport, Government of India, has stated that the Government of Bengal never requisitioned for such transport?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: The Government of Bengal is taking every step to have it expedited.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I have asked a specific question. If the honourable member is not competent enough to answer, let the Hon'ble Minister in charge withdraw the authority given to him and let him himself reply. My question is, whether the difficulty of transport that has been ascribed to is as a result of any laches on the part of the Government of Bengal for not having requisitioned for transport facilities?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: There has been no laches on the part of the Government of Bengal.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether necessary transport was at all requisitioned?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: All necessary steps have been taken.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, my question has not been replied to——

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, you are intelligent enough to understand the position.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No, Sir, I have not understood because on a previous occasion the Hon'ble Minister had himself said that with regard to Jessore paddy there was difficulty in transport because transport was not available. But that has been contradicted by the Government of India. So, I am now asking whether in this particular case the Government of Bengal had actually requisitioned the necessary transport?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: The local Government cannot requisition; they have written to the Government of India for giving transport facilities.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how has the distribution of the standard cloth in the wholesale as well as in the retail market of Calcutta and mofussil been arranged?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Sir, how does this question arise? It has been stated in reply (b) (ii) that retail distributors have been selected

from amongst local bodies (District Boards, Municipalities, Union Boards), reputable charitable institutions and reliable dealers.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that although tenders were invited for arranging the wholesale stocking and distribution of standard cloth and in reply to those invitations for tender there were reputed Bengali dealers who offered to work at only 1 per cent. in view of the cloth famine in Bengal, but the distribution work has been entrusted to a Marwari firm at more than 2 per cent.?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: The work of wholesale distribution was entrusted to the Central Co-operative Bank and other Banks and other reputable firms.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Who are the parties?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: I cannot say offhand.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the wholesale distribution was to be done by open tender?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Tenders were called for.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What were the rates for open tender?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: I cannot say offhand.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that a certain firm offered to work at 1 per cent. but actually the work was entrusted to a party at more than 2 per cent.?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: I want notice.

Requisition of rice stock of rice mills.

69. Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH SEN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether any circular has been issued by the Government for commandeering at least 25 per cent. of the trading stocks of all rice mills and dealers in rice and paddy in Bengal?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how do the Government propose to dispose of such foodgrains?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) Yes

(*b*) Stocks so requisitioned were sold retail to the poorer sections of the people either through dependable dealers or through Government Controlled Shops, at the rate of Rs.15 per maund for rice and Rs.9 per maund for paddy. Stocks in excess of local requirements were held in reserve for movement to and sale in deficit areas, or for use in relief kitchens or for dispensing as gratuitous relief.

Complaints against persons conducting searches in connection with anti-hoarding drive.

70. Khan Bahadur A. M. L. RAHMAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether the Government have received any complaint from any person or persons from anywhere in the Province against the conduct of persons conducting searches during the anti-hoarding drive?

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(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the nature of these complaints; and

(*ii*) what action has been taken by the Government on these complaints?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) Yes; a few have been received.

(*b*) (*i*) The complaints alleged that members of search parties had—

(1) not paid due respect to places of worship and the privacy of individual dwelling places,

(2) recorded stocks in excess of those which actually existed,

(3) been partial to some merchants and discriminated against others,

(4) demanded money for minimising stocks and when these demands were refused, recorded stocks higher than the actual,

(5) suppressed 50 per cent. of the stocks in some localities.

(*ii*) These complaints were enquired into by the Subdivisional Officers and found to be baseless and untrue.

Condition of people of saline-affected areas of Contai and Tamluk subdivisions.

71. Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that—

(*i*) high death rate prevails in the saline-affected areas of Contai and Tamluk subdivisions of the Midnapore district; and

(*ii*) there has been no paddy crop in many parts of the saline-affected area this year?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to stop the rate of mortality from starvation and epidemics?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing up to date from January, 1943, under each of the following heads—(*i*) drowning, (*ii*) house collapse, (*iii*) starvation, (*iv*) cholera, (*v*) malaria, (*vi*) other diseases:—

(1) the number of deaths in the villages Sarsa, Parkbar, police-station Contai, Kalindi, police-station Ramnagar, Haludbari and Kamarda, police-station Khedgree, Contai subdivision, and Gar Chakraberia, police-station Nandigram, Tamluk subdivision; and

(2) number of people still living in the above villages?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea): (*a*) (*i*) The death rate is not reported to be high at present.

(*ii*) The paddy crop has been poor in some parts of the coastal areas this year, some land not having been planted out.

(*b*) In order to prevent deaths from starvation, gratuitous relief in the form of dry doles is being continued in the coastal belt unions of the Contai and Tamluk subdivisions. The sick and homeless destitutes are being sheltered, fed and given medical aid in Poor Houses and Destitute Homes, of which there are 43 in these two subdivisions.

With a view to preventing deaths from epidemics, 17 Emergency Camp Hospitals and 6 Military Hospitals for destitute patients have been functioning in the two subdivisions of Contai and Tamluk for rendering medical relief, in addition to the existing dispensaries and hospitals. The Health Staff of the District Board and the men deputed by the Public Health Department have been carrying on inoculations and vaccinations on a very extensive scale, particularly in the coastal belt areas.

(c) (1) Since January, 1943, there have been no deaths from drowning or house collapse. Figures relating to deaths due to the other causes are not readily available.

(2) The information cannot be supplied as there has been no village census lately.

Applications for leave of absence.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do permit Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, representing Calcutta (South) General Constituency to be absent for the period from the 14th September, 1943, till the end of the present session for which he finds that he is unable to attend meetings of the Assembly.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Assembly do permit Messrs. Pratul Chandra Ganguly, Jnanendra Chandra Majumdar, Khagendra Nath Das Gupta, Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar and Satyapriya Banerjee, representing East Bengal Municipal (General), Mymensingh East (General), Jalpaiguri *cum* Siliguri (General), Barrackpore (Registered Factories) Factory and Colliery Labour) and Rajshahi (General) Constituencies respectively to be absent for the period from the 5th July, 1943, till the end of the present session for which they find that they are unable to attend meetings of the Assembly.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Mr. ASHUTOSH MULLICK: Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do permit Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee representing Calcutta and Suburbs (Registered Factories) (Factory and Colliery Labour) Constituency to be absent for the period from the 14th September, 1943, till the end of the present session for which he finds that he is unable to attend meetings of the Assembly.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Mr. ASHUTOSH MULLICK Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do permit Messrs Sibnath Banerjee, Nikunja Behary Maiti and Iswar Chandra Mal, representing Howrah (Registered Factories) (Factory and Colliery Labour), Midnapore South East (General) and Midnapore South West (General) Constituencies respectively to be absent for the period from the 5th July, 1943, till the end of the present session for which they find that they are unable to attend meetings of the Assembly.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before this matter is put to the vote, may I ask the Hon'ble Home Minister one simple question. Has it been decided by Government that these absent members will not be allowed to attend this session of the Assembly?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another matter. That does not arise.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: That arises in this way. We are voting on grant of leave. I am asking the Home Minister to inform the House whether these members will not be allowed to attend these meetings of the Assembly.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that question arises.

The motion of Mr. Ashutosh Mullick that "This Assembly do permit Messrs. Sibnath Banerjee, Nikunja Behari Maiti and Iswar Chandra Mal, representing Howrah (Registered Factories) (Factory and Colliery Labour), Midnapore South East (General) and Midnapore South West (General) Constituencies respectively to be absent for the period from the 5th July, 1943, till the end of the present session for which they find that they are unable to attend meetings of the Assembly" was then put and agreed to.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do permit Mr. L. T. Maguire and Khan Bahadur Maulvi Abidur Reza Chowdhury representing Anglo-Indian and Chandpur West (Muhammadan) Constituencies respectively to be absent for the period from the 14th September, 1943, till the end of the present Session for which they find that they are unable to attend meetings of the Assembly.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Point of Privilege.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this connection I beg to submit ——

Mr. SPEAKER: No submission, there is nothing before the House.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: On a point of privilege, privilege of all the members concerned, that section 68(4) of the Government of India Act, 1935, deals with these leave applications and the rules made thereunder. Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I draw your attention to the decision given by the Speaker of the Orissa House on this point that the members who are detained in jail without trial against their will whether they are to ask for leave——

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Roy, you are discussing a matter which is not before the House at all.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: It is on a point of privilege.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not a point of privilege. You are, I am afraid, confusing a question of privilege. It is not a privilege that each and every member enjoys. You are discussing a privilege of some members in jail.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: So far as your last observation is concerned those members who are in jail cannot raise motions of privilege so far as it affects them. It is the privilege of other members to demand and to maintain the privilege of other members.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no doubt about it. I am not giving a ruling that you cannot raise a point of privilege that attaches to each and every member of this House. That is not my ruling. I never intended to say that. Besides what I want to impress upon you is that it is a very serious matter and a very important matter and it is no use making a point like this without any motion before the House.

Presentation of Authenticated Supplementary Schedules of Expenditure.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, in pursuance of section 81 read with sub-section (*2*) of section 80 of the Government of India Act, I beg to lay before the Assembly a Supplementary Schedule of authorized expenditure for 1941-42 authenticated by the signature of His Excellency the Governor under sub-section (*1*) of section 80 read with section 81.

Mr. Speaker, in pursuance of section 81 read with sub-section (*2*) of section 80 of the Government of India Act, I beg to lay before the Assembly a Supplementary Schedule of authorized expenditure for 1943-44 authenticated by the signature of His Excellency the Governor under sub-section (*1*) of section 80 read with section 81.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

37—Education—General.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,82,73,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General".

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,82,73,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about—

(*i*) the failure of the Government to give relief to the teachers of the secondary schools who have been very much affected by famine;

(*ii*) the inadequacy of demand as to grants to non-Government Secondary Schools;

(*iii*) inadequacy of the demand as to grant for development of primary education;

(*iv*) failure of the Government to make adequate provision for repair and reconstruction of the primary school buildings most of which have gone out of order;

(*v*) failure of the Government to give relief to the primary school teachers throughout the Province of Bengal who have been seriously affected by the abnormal rise in the prices of everyday necessaries of life;

(*vi*) the failure of the Government to give relief to the poor students who have been badly affected by the famine;

(*vii*) General Policy of Education; and

(*viii*) the expenditure of Scheduled Caste Education Fund—its inadequacy, its method of expenditure, non-utilisation of that small fund.

Sir, this motion deals with eight topics. I shall now go into item No. (*viii*) first with regard to the expenditure of Scheduled Caste Education Fund—its inadequacy, its method of expenditure, non-utilisation of that small fund.

Sir, this is a matter which, I think, is one of utmost importance. You are aware that in the province of Bengal there are about one crore of Scheduled Caste Hindus. I am not in favour of the expression

"Scheduled Castes", but, after all, in order to give expression to my views, I have to use that expression. I shall speak of Scheduled Castes but there are other classes not included in the Scheduled Castes though they are economically and educationally the most backward communities. So, Sir, I shall only deal with the education of those classes who are economically and educationally most backward. Of these one crore of people who are socially suppressed, economically most backward and educationally also most backward, not even 1 per cent. is literate. For these backward people special consideration must be given. What have Government been doing? Government have allotted a magnificent sum of Rs. 5 lakhs. But, Sir, a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs was allotted also in the year 1942. If you refer to page 277 of the Blue Book, Sir, you will find that in the year 1942-43 a sum of Rs. 57,428 was spent under the head "Stipends to Pupils". When you remember the number of Scheduled Castes people in this province, when you remember the backwardness of these men, this amount is totally inadequate. In my district, Sir, the appalling condition of the scheduled caste people is indeed deplorable. I have got before my mind a picture of the condition of cobblers, most of whom are Scheduled Castes. They are specially backward. I have noticed, Sir, that in the villages which are inhabited by cobblers there is not a single primary school, or if there is a school it is located far from the area which is inhabited by these people, with the result that no primary education is being imparted to them. This is the condition, Sir, in areas of my district, which are inhabited by cobblers. I would like to draw the special attention of Government to the condition of these cobblers. They require not only general education but also technical education. I do not know, Sir, whether you are aware that during the last famine about 50 per cent. of the the people have died. Not only cobblers but I also speak of the fisherman class of my district, and that is, I believe, the condition throughout the province. I have seen, Sir, that in areas which are inhabited by illiterate people Government help does not reach them. It is only non-official help which they get. 75 per cent. of the fisherman class have died out of starvation. There is no provision for them. I submit, Sir, that this class requires special treatment at the hands of Government. Then, Sir, it is said that in the year 1943-44 under the head "Stipends to Pupils" a magnificent sum of Rs. 92,000 has been spent; under the head "Grants-in-aid" a sum of Rs. 1,37,000 has been spent; while under the head "Scholarships" not a single pice was spent. There was no expenditure of even a single pice under the head "Scholarships" in the year 1942-43 also. In the year 1944-45 the amount provided for these people is Rs. 18,000 only; under "Grants-in-aid" Rs. 2,95,249; and under "Stipends to Pupils" Rs. 1,70,980. These are insignificant amounts. I hope you are aware, Sir, that a portion of the amount is allotted for constructing separate hostels for scheduled castes. This is a thing, Sir, which I deplore very much. In my opinion there should not be any separate hostels for scheduled caste Hindus. There should be hostels and messes for all Hindus and the Scheduled Caste people should be allowed to live in the same hostels as the other Hindus. If anybody objected to it, they should not be allowed to live there. Of course we cannot expect anything better from a political party which is in power today, whose policy is to divide and stay and not divide and quit. They want to create a division among the Hindus themselves. Not only that but they

want the continuance of British power. So long it was a policy of divide and quit, but we find that the present policy is to divide and stay. Sir, even today in an article written in the *Statesman* the same policy of the Muslim League party has been advocated; namely, the policy of division and continuance of British rule. So, Sir, this is a matter to which I draw the attention of Government first of all.

Then, Sir, I would like to speak on the general policy of education. What is the amount that has been budgeted for? It is Rs. 1,82,73,000 under the head "Education—General"—Education for six crores of people. I submit, Sir, that this amount of Rs. 1,82,73,000 is totally insufficient. What is the amount spent for this nation-building department? Sir, I shall not refer to other countries, but I shall refer to the other provinces in India. In Bombay the expenditure per head of the population on this nation-building department was Rs. 7; in the Punjab it was Rs. 5; in Madras it was Rs. 3-7; in the U. P. it was Rs. 2-10; and in Bengal it was only 10 annas. That was the position, Sir, in 1938-39. It is a regrettable state of affairs, and the situation has not improved in any way. On the other hand, the situation has probably deteriorated. It is regrettable, Sir, that on nation-building department like Education which, I think, is the most important of all only a sum of 10 annas per head should be spent, because, Sir, without education there cannot be any improvement in sanitation, without education there cannot be any improvement in agriculture, without education there cannot be any improvement in Public Health. Without education, the other nation-building departments cannot be improved, and for that education only Rs. 1,82,73,000 has been budgeted for six crores of people. Out of six crores about five crores are illiterate, and for these five crores what amount has been budgeted. It is Rs. 1,82,73,000. If we take it at Rs. 2 crores, it comes to 4 annas per head annually. If you look at the budget provisions, Sir, you will find that much of the money is spent on Inspectors and other purposes. There are a large number of Inspectors, Deputy Inspectors, Assistant Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors. That is the situation, Sir Then if you analyse the situation with regard to primary education you will find a worse state of affairs. I shall first draw the attention of Government to the necessity of primary education. I draw the pointed attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge to the deplorable condition of huts and buildings used for primary schools. I do not know, Mr Speaker, Sir, if you are aware but if you go to the villages you will find that most of the primary school buildings have gone out of order, and still nothing is being spent on their repair. If the work of reconstruction and repair is left to the people in general, I am afraid nothing will be done and no reconstruction or repair works will be undertaken on account of want of funds. That is the position. When I go to the villages I find that the condition of a primary school is now much worse than what it was some years back. It has got no wall, it has got no roof, it has got no windows and it has not got even doors. That is the situation now. How many primary schools are really functioning at the moment? Sir, I do not know if you are aware that the primary schools are not functioning and that the teachers are poorly paid. According to Mr. Sargent the pay of the primary school teacher is worse than the pay of a scavenger. The pay of a primary school teacher is Rs. 16. Will it be possible for any teacher who

draws the magnificent sum of Rs. 16 a month to be able to meet his expenses, especially in view of the very high rise in the prices of all necessaries of life? The fact is that the primary school teacher has given up his profession and has taken to some other occupation with the result that primary schools have practically ceased to exist. I am told by my friend, and it is a fact, that even the small pay of Rs. 16 is not regularly paid. In this connection, Sir, I draw the attention through you of the House to the deplorable condition of the constitution of the District School Boards. In the matter of the constitution of these boards nepotism prevails.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I want to say a few words with regard to secondary schools before I resume my seat and no justice can be done to this subject within such a short period. You are fully aware that an All-Bengal Teachers' Day was observed on the 1st of August, 1943, and on that day there was a meeting in which a resolution was passed to the effect that the teachers should be included as members of the essential services. The pertinent portion of the resolution reads thus:—"This meeting of the teachers and persons interested in education urges on the Government of Bengal to take immediate steps to support the non-Government schools and colleges recognising teachers as members of essential service by granting to them dearness allowance and supplying them with foodstuffs and standard cloth on the same scale as sanctioned for their own employees and also by granting subventions to these institutions for their continued existence and proper maintenance". That was the resolution which was passed on the 1st of August, 1943, at the All-Bengal Teachers' Association. The condition of the teachers obtaining on the 1st of August has not improved; on the contrary it has deteriorated to a great extent. The All-Bengal Teachers' Association have sent a memorandum to the Government of Bengal in which among other things they urged most respectfully that Government should be pleased to grant suitable dearness allowance to all teachers of Bengal, to make provisions for sale of foodstuffs and clothes to them at controlled prices, to sanction capital grants to schools of those places that have been badly affected by air raids, by famine, by cyclone and by floods and to prepare a scheme for post-war reconstruction. This was the memorandum which was sent to the Government of Bengal, to which I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge. I want to know to what extent they have given effect to the prayers contained in the memorandum submitted by the All-Bengal Teachers' Association.

With these few words I beg to commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. PATIRAM ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,82,73,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, I move this motion with a view to raising a discussion about the Scheduled Caste education policy of the Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Schedule caste education সম্বন্ধে দেখা যায় এবার বাজেটে ৫ লক্ষ টাকা ধরা হয়েছে। ১৯৩৮-৩৯ সালেও বাজেটে এই বাবদ ৫ লক্ষ টাকার

বরাদ্দ ছিল, কিন্তু ব্যয় হয়েছিল মাত্র ২২ হাজার টাকা, ১৯৩৯-৪০ সালে ব্যয় হয়েছিল ৯০ হাজার টাকা, ১৯৪০-৪১ সালে ব্যয় হয়েছিল ৭০ হাজার টাকা। তহবিলে টাকা থাকা সত্ত্বেও ৩ বৎসরে মাত্র ব্যয় হয়েছিল ২ লক্ষ ৮২ হাজার টাকা। এর পর বৎসরে ঐ ফাণ্ডে ১$\frac{১}{২}$ লক্ষ টাকা দেওয়া হয়, তা সত্ত্বেও ব্যয় হয়েছিল মাত্র ৮৭ হাজার টাকা।

এইবারও ৫ লক্ষ টাকার কথায় মনে হয়, পূর্ব্বে যেরূপ এই টাকার সদ্ব্যবহার করা হয় নাই এবারও হয়ত তাহাই হইবে। আমরা আশা করিয়াছিলাম যে অনুন্নত সম্প্রদায়ের উন্নতি কল্পে এই অর্থ ব্যয়িত হইবে, কিন্তু দেখা গিয়াছিল যে এর দ্বারা কার্য্যক্ষেত্রে বিশেষ কিছু সুবিধা পাওয়া যায় নাই। বাংলার ১ কোটি লোকের জন্য এই টাকা দেওয়ার বহর দেখলে মনে হয় এই টাকাটা ইচ্ছা করিয়া না দায়ে পড়িয়া দেওয়া হইতেছে তাহা বোঝা যায় না। এইবার বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর কার্য্যকাল আরম্ভ হওয়ার সময় তপশীলভুক্ত অধিকাংশ মেম্বর তাঁদের সমর্থন করেছিলেন। এই সমর্থনের ফলেই বোধ হয় বাজেটে ৫ লক্ষ টাকা আনা হয়েছে, কিন্তু এই বাজেটের মধ্যে কোন জায়গায় দেখা যায় না এই ৫ লক্ষ টাকা recurring করা হয়েছে। অথচ গত বৎসরে ১$\frac{১}{২}$ লক্ষ টাকা recurring ধরা হয়েছিল, সেই টাকাটা এই বৎসর কোথায় গেল। এই প্রসঙ্গে এই কথাই মনে হয় পূর্ব্বতন মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী যে সমস্ত কাজ করে গেছেন, বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর পক্ষে সেগুলি ত্যাগ করা এবং সেগুলির প্রতি সহানুভূতি প্রকাশ না করাই হচ্ছে তাঁদের policy। বিগত মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী যে ১$\frac{১}{২}$ লক্ষ টাকা recurring করেছিলেন বোধ হয় যে কোন উপায়েই হউক সেটাকে তুলে দিতে হবে, এবং সেই জন্যই বোধ হয় সেই কথাটা বাজেটে উল্লেখ করা হয় নাই। তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির ভোট পাওয়ার জন্যই বোধ হয় তাহাদিগকে ভাঁওতা দিয়া এই ৫ লক্ষ টাকা বাজেটে দেখান হয়েছে। সঙ্গে সঙ্গে সেই টাকাটা কিভাবে ব্যয় করা হবে তা বাজেটে দেখান হয় নাই।

ইতিপূর্ব্বে যে ১$\frac{১}{২}$ লক্ষ টাকা দেওয়া হয়েছিল তাহাতে তপশীলভুক্ত সম্প্রদায়ের ৭৫ জন ছাত্র stipend পেয়েছিল। আজ বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী বোলছেন তাঁরা তপশীলভুক্ত সম্প্রদায়ের দরদী, এবং তাঁদের শিক্ষার উন্নতি কোরবেন, ৫ লক্ষ টাকা দেবেন, অতএব চিন্তার কোন কারণ নেই। অথচ সঙ্গে সঙ্গে circular জারি করা হয়েছে যে তপশীলভুক্ত সম্প্রদায়ের ছাত্রকে মাত্র শতকরা ১৫ জন হিসাবে stipend দেওয়া হবে। এই দুইটি কথায় কি করে সামঞ্জস্য হতে পারে জানি না। এই যে এমনি করে ভাঁওতা দেবার চেষ্টা হচ্ছে, এই হাউসে এমন কোন মানুষ নেই যে তা বুঝতে পারে না। ইতিপূর্ব্বে তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থাকল্পে একটা কমিটি করা হয়েছিল এবং গত বৎসর পর্য্যন্ত আমি এই কমিটির মেম্বর ছিলাম। আমি দেখেছি এই কমিটি প্রতি বৎসরই ৫।১০ লক্ষ টাকার scheme Government ও Director of Public Instructionএর কাজে পাঠিয়েছেন। অথচ এই টাকাটা খরচ না হওয়া সম্বন্ধে যখনই Assemblyতে প্রশ্ন করা হয় তখনই উত্তর দেওয়া হয়—কোন scheme নাই, সেইজন্য টাকাটা ব্যয় হচ্ছে না। তা ছাড়া এই এক কোটি লোকের শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থার কোন একটা scheme গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে না করার কোন কারণ থাকতে পারে না, বিশেষতঃ গভর্ণমেণ্ট যখন হাজার হাজার টাকা ব্যয় করিয়া Special Officers appoint করেছেন, বিভিন্ন বিভাগের নানান রকমের scheme করার জন্য। এইরূপ হাজার হাজার scheme পড়ে আছে বিভিন্ন বিভাগের দপ্তরে, কেবল টাকার অভাবে কাজ হচ্ছে না। Irrigation এবং Agriculture বিভাগে এইরূপ অনেক scheme পড়ে আছে। এদিকে Assemblyতে যখন [illegible] ৫।১০ লক্ষ টাকা

খরচ করার কথা উঠে তখন বলা হয় কোন scheme নাই। এটা একটা নিছক ফাঁকি ছাড়া আর কিছুই বলা যেতে পারে না। Scheme দরকার হ'লে গভর্ণমেণ্ট ক'রে নিবে। Scheme অভাবে দেশ ও জাতি-হিতকর কার্য্য না করার কোন কারণ থাকতে পারে না।

আমরা দেখিয়াছি গত বৎসরে যে ১½ লক্ষ টাকা recurring expense ধরা হয়েছিল, যা এক কোটি লোকের শিক্ষার পক্ষে অতি সামান্য, এক বিন্দু জল ছাড়া আর কিছুই নয়, সেই টাকাটা'ও ব্যয় হয় নাই, তখন এই যে ৫ লক্ষ টাকা non-recurring ধরা হয়েছে জানি না তার অদৃষ্টে কি জুটবে।

তারপর Education Departmentএ Schedule Caste লোকের চাকুরীর সমস্যা। শতকরা ১৫টি চাকুরী দেওয়ার কথা Service Ratio Ruleএ থাকলেও, তপশীলভুক্ত জাতিকে তা দেওয়া হয় না। এই বিভাগে চাকুরীর জন্য একটি Panel করা হয়। Sub-Inspector, Teacher প্রভৃতি চাকুরীর জন্য যখনই Panel করা হয়, তখন তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির লোকের নাম দিতে যাইয়া দেখা গিয়াছে, অফিসারের অফিসের কাজ এত বেশী বেড়ে যায় যে তখন ঝড়ের মত কলম চলে। তারপর যখন তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির কোন member জোর করে দাবী করেন কেন Schedule Casteএর candidate নেওয়া হল না, তখন বলা হয় suitable candidate ছিল না।

Mr. CIASUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,82,73,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to introduce free and compulsory primary education in all the districts of Bengal.

Sir, আজ এই Bengal Assemblyর বয়স ৭ বৎসরের উপর হয়ে চলছে। নির্ব্বাচনের সময় যত মেম্বর জনসাধারণের ভোটপ্রার্থী হয়েছিলেন তাঁদের মধ্যে শতকরা প্রায় ৯৯ জন আশ্বাস দিয়েছিলেন যে তাঁরা বাংলা দেশে শিক্ষা বিস্তার করবার জন্য free and compulsory primary education প্রবর্ত্তন করবার চেষ্টা করবেন। তারপর জনসাধারণের উপর education cess হিসাবে টাকাপ্রতি পাঁচ পয়সা cess ধরা হয়েছে। অবশ্য জনসাধারণ ৩½ পয়সা দেয়, জমিদাররা ১½ পয়সা দিয়ে থাকে। কিন্তু আসলে জনসাধারণের ঘাড়ে সমস্ত পড়ে। তা সত্ত্বেও বাংলা দেশের সমস্ত ডিষ্ট্রীক্টে আজ পর্য্যন্ত প্রাইমারী শিক্ষার প্রবর্ত্তন হয় নাই। যখন Assemblyতে Education Cess Bill পাশ করা হয় তখন এই সম্পর্কে আমরা বলেছিলাম যে যে পর্য্যন্ত না Primary শিক্ষা compulsory হবে সে পর্য্যন্ত জনসাধারণের cess দেওয়ার কোন যৌক্তিকতা নাই। আমরা কিছুতেই এই tax সমর্থন করতে পারি না। আমরা tax দিতে রাজী আছি, আরও বেশী দিতে রাজী আছি যদি এই taxএর benefit জনসাধারণ পায়।

আমরা জানি বাংলার জনসাধারণ অশিক্ষিত বিধায় ভাল মন্দ বিচার করিতে পারে না, সেইজন্য যারা বুদ্ধিমান তারা তাদের উপর অনেক কিছু advantage নিয়ে থাকেন। সেইজন্য বলছিলাম যতদিন জনসাধারণের উপর বাধ্যতামূলক আইনের ব্যবস্থা না হবে ততদিন জনসাধারণ শিক্ষাকর দেবে কিন্তু শিক্ষার জন্য ছেলে পাঠাবে না। যদি সমস্ত বাংলা দেশ পরিভ্রমণ করে দেখেন এবং তদন্ত করেন তাহলে দেখবেন primary schoolএর ছাত্র সংখ্যার উপস্থিতি গড়ে দৈনিক কোথাও ৫ জন, কোথাও তার চেয়েও কম। অবশ্য এই অনুপস্থিতির জন্য জনসাধারণ দায়ী, সঙ্গে সঙ্গে গভর্ণমেণ্টকেও দায়ী করতে হবে। আজ বাংল

দেশের জনসাধারণকে শিক্ষিত করার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের সৎ উদ্দেশ্য থাকতো তাহলে অন্যান্য দেশের সঙ্গে তুলনা করে এর ব্যবস্থা তাঁরা করতেন। আজ দেখা যায় Americaয় শতকরা ৯০ জন, জার্ম্মাণীতে ৯৩ জন এবং ইংলণ্ডে ৯৯ জন শিক্ষিত হয়েছে। বাংলা দেশের সংখ্যা শতকরা ৯$\frac{১}{২}$ জন।

বর্ত্তমান বাজেটে দেখতে পাই কোটি কোটি টাকার Deficit Budget আনা হয়েছে। মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী বলছেন প্রয়োজনীয় খরচ মেটাবার জন্য এই Deficit Budget আনা হয়েছে। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই অন্যান্য খরচের জন্য যদি কোটি কোটি টাকার Deficit Budget আনা যায় তবে বাংলার জনসাধারণের শিক্ষার জন্য আরও কিছু টাকার Deficit Budget আনা যাবে না কেন। বাংলা দেশের জনসংখ্যা যদি বিভেদ করা যায় তবে একথা স্বীকার করতে হবে মুসলমানরা সংখ্যায় বেশী এবং মুসলমান জনসাধারণ ও তপশীলভুক্ত সম্প্রদায় শিক্ষায় পশ্চাদপদ। আজ মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী একটা বড় কথা বলে থাকেন যে তাঁরা লীগ-মন্ত্রী, কিন্তু কেবল হিন্দুকে গালি দিলেই মুসলমান সমাজ বড় হবে না। কেবল মুসলিম লীগ ও পাকিস্থানের বুলি আওড়ালেই জনসাধারণকে শিক্ষিত করা যাবে না। এর জন্য বাজেটে টাকা grant করতে হবে। এদিকে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর কোন মনযোগ আছে বলে বিশ্বাস করি না। আমি বলতে চাই Primary শিক্ষা মুসলমানের পক্ষেই বিশেষ প্রয়োজনীয়। Caste হিন্দুদের মধ্যে শিক্ষিতের সংখ্যা বেশী এবং তাদের ছেলে মেয়েদের শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা তারা করতে জানে। বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী free compulsory primary education প্রবর্ত্তন করলে সবচেয়ে বেশী benefited হবে Muslim Community. Primary শিক্ষার জন্য grant হয়েছিল ১৯৪৩-৪৪ সালে ৩ লক্ষ ৩৩ হাজার টাকা। আর ১৯৪৪-৪৫ সালে ৩ লক্ষ ৩৩ হাজার টাকা; অর্থাৎ একটা টাকাও বাড়ে নাই। তারপর Budget listএ দেখা যায় night school এবং বিভিন্ন জনহিতকর প্রতিষ্ঠানের জন্য একটা টাকাও ধরা হয় নাই। তারপর Madrassa শিক্ষার খরচ বাড়ানর জন্য কোন grant নাই। গত বৎসর যে দুর্ভিক্ষ হয়েছে তার ফলে জনসাধারণ নিজেদের ভরণপোষণের ব্যবস্থাই করতে পারে না তখন তারা ছেলেদের বই পুস্তক কি করে কিনে দিবে। গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষ থেকে যদি চেষ্টা না হয় তাহলে তারা কিছুতেই শিক্ষিত হতে পারে না। আর একটা দুঃখের কথা গভর্ণমেণ্ট Officerরা Dearness Allowance এবং Ration পাচ্ছেন কিন্তু প্রাইমারী স্কুলের গরীব শিক্ষকদের জন্য কোন ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। তাদের বেতন গড়ে ১০৲ হইতে ১৬৲ টাকা। আজকাল ১০০৲।২০০৲ টাকা বেতন পাইলেও সংসার নির্ব্বাহ হয় না সেই অবস্থায় গরীব শিক্ষকদের কি প্রকারে চলিবে। এই দিকে আমাদের মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর মনোযোগ দেখা যায় না।

Mr. SPEAKER : Your time is up.

Maulvi ABDUR RAZZAK : আমি প্রস্তাব—

Mr. SPEAKER : আবদুর রেজ্জাক সাহেব আপনি কোনটা move কোরছেন?

Maulvi ABDUR RAZZAK : Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,82,73,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education General" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to introduce the Koran class in primary education. আমি কোরাণ সরিফ সম্বন্ধে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করিতেছি। আমি প্রস্তাব করিতেছি—মাননীয় শিক্ষা-মন্ত্রী বাহাদুরের প্রস্তাবিত সাধারণ শিক্ষা খতের ব্যয়-বরাদ্দ বাবদ ১,৮২,৭৩,০০০৲ টাকা হইতে ১০০৲ টাকা ছাটাই করা হউক, এই

প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করার কারণ বর্ত্তমান বাংলা সরকার ফ্রি প্রাইমারী স্কুলে মুসলমান ছাত্রদের কোরাণ শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করিতে সম্পূর্ণ ভাবে অকৃতকার্য্য হইয়াছেন। এই পরিষদে তাহার বিস্তারিত আলোচনা করা হউক।

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয় আমি এখানে যে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করিয়াছি তাহার উদ্দেশ্য হইতেছে প্রাইমারী স্কুলে বর্ত্তমান বাংলা সরকার বাহাদুর কর্ত্তৃক কোরাণ শিক্ষার কোনরূপ ব্যবস্থা না করার দরুণ মুসলমান সমাজের ধর্ম্ম শিক্ষার যে ব্যাঘাত ঘটিতেছে সেই সম্বন্ধে বিশদ আলোচনা এই পরিষদের সমক্ষে করা। আমাদের মুসলমানদের প্রতি হাদিসের আদেশ রহিয়াছে Arabic quotation, مروا صبيانكم فى الصلوة ان كانوا سبع سنين و اضربوهم اذا بلغوا عشر "তোমাদের ছেলেমেয়েদের বয়স যখন ৭ বৎসর হইবে—তখন হইতেই তাহাদিগকে নামাজ পড়িতে আদেশ করিবে" এবং তাহাদিগকে মেরিয়ে নামাজ শিক্ষাদান করিবে যখন তাহাদের বয়স ১০ বৎসর হইবে। অতএব ইহা হইতে বুঝা যায় প্রাইমারী স্কুলে ছেলেপিলেদের কোরাণ শরীফ যদি না পড়ান হয় তবে তাহাদের প্রকৃত শিক্ষাই হইতে পারে না। বয়স বাড়িয়া গেলে ছেলেরা যে কোরাণ শিক্ষা করিয়া, রোজা নামাজের ব্যবস্থা করিবে ইহা সুদূরপরাহত। সেই-জন্য প্রাইমারী স্কুলে কোরাণ শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা না হওয়ায় আমাদের মুসলমান সমাজের বিশেষ ক্ষতি হইতেছে।

যখন পাকিস্থানী লীগ মন্ত্রিসভা গঠিত হইয়াছিল—তখন আমরা আশা করিয়াছিলাম—যারা দেশের মধ্যে ধর্ম্মের দোহাই দিয়া শাসন ক্ষমতা হস্তগত করিয়াছে তাহাদের সেই মুসলীম লীগ দলীয় মন্ত্রীত্বের আমলে মুসলমানদের শিক্ষার সম্বন্ধে অন্ততঃ একটা উন্নতিমূলক ব্যবস্থা হইবে। কিন্তু আজ আমরা নিরাশ হইয়াছি। তার কারণ এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডল সিয়া লীগপন্থীদের দ্বারা পরিচালিত। সেইজন্য বাংলা দেশে মুসলীম লীগ দ্বারা পরিচালিত মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলের আমলে বাংলার মুসলমানদের ধর্ম্মকর্ম্ম লোপ পাইতে বসিয়াছে। মুসলীম লীগের নেতা মিঃ জিন্না স্বয়ং সিয়া। সেই সিয়া সম্প্রদায়ের কুকীর্ত্তির কাহিনী যা নাকি গত রবিবারের নবযুগ কাগজে প্রকাশিত হইয়াছে—তাহা দেখিলে মুসলমান সমাজকে লজ্জায় মাথা নত করিতে হয়। যেখানে সুন্নিদের সঙ্গে সম্মিলিতভাবে সিয়া নেতাগণ কোন কাজ করিতে পারেন না এবং ভারতবর্ষের মুসলমান সমাজের একমাত্র নেতা বলিয়া নিজেকে ঘোষণা করিয়া বেড়ান যে জিন্না সাহেব তিনি যাইয়া একটা মিটমাট করিয়া দিবার ব্যবস্থা করিতে পারেন না, সেখানে কোন মুখে তাঁহারা বলিয়া বেড়ান যে "আমরা পাকিস্থান গঠন করিব, এবং মুসলমান সমাজের উন্নতি ও ধর্ম্মের উন্নতি করিব। সেখানে হকিকৎ নামীয়' যে একটা কাগজ আছে, ঐ কাগজে যা লিখিয়াছে তাহা হইতে বাংলা করিয়া আমি শুনাইতেছি—

"আজ ১২ই রবিউল আউল, এই দিনটি পৃথিবীর মুসলমানদের পক্ষে সুপবিত্র আনন্দের দিন এবং সর্ব্বত্রই তাহারা মিলাদুন্নবীর মহ্‌ফেলের অনুষ্ঠান করিয়া পুণ্যার্জনের আনন্দে আত্মহারা হইয়া রহিয়াছেন। কিন্তু লক্ষ্ণৌ এমনি একটা দুর্ভাগা স্থান হইয়া পড়িয়াছে যে সেই অতীত আনন্দের ১২ই রবিওল আউয়াল উপস্থিত হওয়ার পূর্ব্বেই সমগ্র লক্ষ্ণৌ বিষাদ মূর্ত্তি ধারণ করিয়াছে—

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: On a point of order, Sir. How is that relevant to the subject-matter, viz., teaching of Quoran in primary school?

Mr. SPEAKER : মৌলবী সাহেব আপনি কোরাণ শিক্ষার সম্বন্ধে বলছেন—সে শিক্ষার বাইরে কিছু বলবেন না।

Maulvi ABDUR RAZZAK : এটাতে তো খারাপ কিছু নাই। (Some members : আপনি পড়ুন, পড়ুন) আমি তো এটা দ্বারা শিক্ষার কথাই বলিতেছি। এটাতে মিলাদ শিক্ষার বিষয় রহিয়াছে। (The member again began to read from the paper) ১২ই রবিউল আউয়াল উপস্থিত হওয়ার পূর্ব্বেই সমগ্র লক্ষ্ণৌ বিষাদ মূর্ত্তি—

Mr. SPEAKER : লক্ষ্ণৌতে কি হয়েছে না হয়েছে সেটা বলার এখানে দরকার করে না।

Maulvi ABDUR RAZZAK : আমি বলিতেছি Sir, সেইটা আমি এই বিবরণী পাঠ করিয়া দেখাইতেছি ; লক্ষ্ণৌ সহরে সিয়া সুন্নি মুসলমানদের ঝগড়ার ফলে আমাদের মুসলমানদের ধর্ম্ম শিক্ষার, কোরাণ শিক্ষার কি ব্যাঘাত হইয়াছে আমি সেইটা বলিতেছি।

Mr. SPEAKER : লক্ষ্ণৌতে কি ঘটনা ঘটেছে না ঘটেছে সে বিবরণ এখানে বলবার দরকার কিছু নাই ; এখানে কি ঘটনা ঘোটেছে আপনি সে সম্বন্ধে বলতে পারেন।

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. Is not the honourable member entitled to refer to a certain written extract in order to illustrate his point not only with respect to what is not being done here but also to give a comparative estimate with regard to other provinces?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not asking him not to state anything whatsoever with regard to education in Lucknow or anywhere else, but I want to say that it must be relevant to the matter under discussion.

Maulvi MD. ISRAIL: On a point of order, Sir. Can he waste the time of the House in this way?

Mr. SPEAKER : মৌলবী সাহেবের যখন ইংরাজী ভাল জানা নাই, ওঁর বোধগম্য কোরে আপনি বাংলায় বলুন।

Mr. MD. ISRAIL : মৌলবী সাহেব ১২ই রবিওল তারিখে লক্ষ্ণৌ সহরে কি ঘটনা হয়েছে, সেই সম্পর্কে কথা বলতে চাইছেন। সেখানে ঘটনা হয়েছে রবিউলের জন্ম দিনে, তাতে কি হয়েছে না হয়েছে লক্ষ্ণৌ সহরে সেই বিষয়টা উনি বিবৃতি করতে চাহিতেছেন, আর আমাদের আলোচ্য বিষয় হলো—বাংলা দেশের শিক্ষা। সেটা প্রাথমিক হউক, সেকেণ্ডারী হোক, বা ইউনিভারসিটি হোক, মৌলবী সাহেব তাঁর প্রস্তাবে মাদ্রাসার শিক্ষার বিষয়ে বিশেষ কোরে কোরাণ শিক্ষা সম্বন্ধেই বলিতে চাহিয়াছিলেন। যদি কোরাণ সম্বন্ধে বা Education সম্বন্ধে কোন কথা হয়, সেটা লক্ষ্ণৌয়ের হোক, দিল্লীর হোক, বা ভারতবর্ষের বাইরের হোক, বলতে আমাদের কোন বাধা নাই। কিন্তু আমাদের আলোচ্য বিষয়ের সঙ্গে যে ঘটনার কোন relevancy নাই সে ঘটনা উল্লেখ করা যেতে পারে কি না এ সম্বন্ধে আমি ruling চাই।

Mr. SPEAKER : আপনার point of order hypothetical. আপনার point of orderএর যদি একটা ruling করি—তাহলে সবাই মিলে একটার পর একটা কোরে point of order তুলবেন। মৌলবী সাহেব, আপনার প্রস্তাবটা হচ্ছে—কোরাণ শিক্ষা সেটা ঠিকমত হচ্ছে না বোলে অন্য দেশে যে রকম গোলমাল হয়েছে, বাংলা দেশেও সেই রকম গোলমাল হতে পারে ;—একথা আপনি বলতে পারেন, এই ধরণের কথা ছাড়া যদি অন্য রকম কথা বলেন সেটা এখানে প্রযোজ্য হবে না। আপনি সেটা কাগজ হতে পড়তে যাবেন না, নিজের কথায় বলবেন।

Maulvi ABDUR RAZZAK : আমি বলিতেছি কোরাণ শরীফের দ্বারাই নামাজ পড়ান হয়। সেটা সকল দেশেই হয়। কোরাণের মধ্যেই মুসলমান ধর্ম্মের সব আছে। মিলাদ শরীফও কোরাণ হইতেই বাহির হইয়াছে। সেটা সেখানে বন্ধ করা হইয়াছে। সেখানে সিয়ার

সুন্নিদের এই ধর্ম্মকার্য্য বন্ধ করিয়াছে, একথা বলার আমার অধিকার আছে। সারা Indiaতে মুসলমান ধর্ম্মের কোন গোলমাল হইলে সেকথা বলার আমার অধিকার আছে। এখানে আমি দেখাতে চাই সারা ভারতে সিয়া ধর্ম্মাবলম্বী যে একজন লীগের কর্ণধার সেই সিয়া দলের দ্বারা মুসলমানদের কিরূপ অবমাননা হইতেছে—আমি সেইটা দেখাইতে চাহিতেছি। এবং সেইজন্য—

Mr. SPEAKER : মৌলবী সাহেব এখন বসুন, ৫টা বেজে গেছে—নামাজের জন্য এখন সভা ১৫ মিনিট বন্ধ থাকবে।

(The House was adjourned for 15 minutes for prayer.)

(After Adjournment.)

Maulvi ABDUR RAZZAK : যে পবিত্র দিনের পবিত্র আচার-অনুষ্ঠানের আনন্দে অন্যান্য নগর-পল্লীর মুসলমানগণ আপন আপন বাড়ীঘর সাজাইয়া এবং নিজেরা যার যেরূপ সাধ্য উত্তম পোষাক-পরিচ্ছদে সজ্জিত হইয়া হৃদয়ের আনন্দ প্রকাশ করিতেছেন সেই দিনটিতে লক্ষ্ণৌ এইরূপ বিষাদক্লিষ্ট মূর্ত্তি ধারণ করিয়াছে—

Mr. SPEAKER : মৌলবী সাহেব, আপনি আপনার ঐ কাগজ রেখে দিন, ঐ কাগজে এমন কিছু নাই যার মধ্যে বাংলা দেশের মুসলমানদের কোরাণ শিক্ষার কোন কথা আছে। সুতরাং আপনি আর ওটা পড়বেন না।

Maulvi ABDUR RAZZAK : এই কোরাণ শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা না হওয়াতেই মুসলমানদের নামাজ পড়ার ব্যাঘাত হইয়াছে। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী বাহাদুরেরা মুসলীম লীগের নাম করিয়া যে মন্ত্রিত্ব গঠন করিয়াছেন, সেই মন্ত্রিত্বের দ্বারা কিন্তু তারা বাংলার মুসলমানদের কোরাণ শরীফ পড়বার ব্যবস্থা করতে পারেন নাই তাহার কারণ ওদিকে তাঁহাদের নজর নাই। কেন না তাঁহাদের নেতা মিঃ জিন্না একজন ইউরোপীয় কায়দার লোক। তিনি রোজা নামাজের ধার ধারেন না। (Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK : এসব personal attacks কেন?) সেইজন্যই যদিও তিনি সারা Indiaর মুসলমানদের নেতা বলিয়া নিজেকে জাহির করেন—কিন্তু মুসলমানদের মিলাদ শরীফ লক্ষ্ণৌয়ে বন্ধ করা হয়েছে—তিনি সেখানে নিজ হইতে অগ্রসর হইয়া বিবাদ মীমাংসা করিতে পারিলেন না,—

Mr. SPEAKER : কোরাণ শিক্ষার আলোচনায় একথা ওঠে না। আপনি আপনার যা বক্তব্য তা কিছুই বলিতেছেন না অবান্তর কথা যথেষ্ট হয়েছে ওসব আর বলবেন না।

Maulvi ABDUL RAZZAK : Sir, আজকালকার নব্য শিক্ষিত যাঁরা সব বাহির হয়েছেন তাঁরা মনে করেন কোরাণ শরীফের মধ্যে কেবল নামাজের কথাই আছে আর কিছুই নাই। এইটা হইয়াছে আজ নব্য সমাজের বিদ্যা !! কোরাণের দুইটা পাতা পড়িয়াই মনে করে তাহারা যে মুসমানের সব পড়া হইয়াছে। যে নবী দুনিয়ায় ইসলামকে কায়েম করিয়াছেন সেই নবীর জীবনের কথা বলা যাইতে পারিবে না, সে কথা বলিতে গেলেই বাধা দেওয়া হয়। তার কারণ এদেশে, কোরাণ শিক্ষার অভাব। হাদিসের দ্বারাও কোরাণের তত্ত্ব বাহির হইয়াছে। সেই কোরাণ শিক্ষার কিসে ব্যাঘাত হইতেছে, কিসে ধর্ম্মের ব্যাঘাত হইতেছে সেকথা বলিতে পারিব না, তাহা হইলে এখানে কথা বলার কোন দরকার নাই। (From the opposition benches ; বলুন, বলুন।)

Mr. SPEAKER : দেখুন মৌলবী সাহেব, আপনাকে আমি বাধা দিচ্ছি না। আপনি একটু বসুন। এখানে শিক্ষা সম্বন্ধে টাকার বরাদ্দ হইতেছে আপনি তার উপর প্রস্তাব আনিয়াছেন যে এর থেকে কিছু টাকা reduce করা হোক। কেন না—গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রাথমিক

শিক্ষাতে কোরাণ ক্লাশ introduce করেন নাই। সেইটা করেন নাই বোলে, সেই কারণের দরুণ, আপনি একটা reduction motion দিয়েছেন। আপনি এতে কোরাণ শিক্ষার আবশ্যকতার কথা বলতে পারেন। তাতে আপনাকে কেউ বাধা দিচ্ছে না। কিন্তু তার ভিতর "অ ুকে এই করেছে, বা অমুকে এই করে নাই," এ আপনি বলতে পারেন না। আপনি বলবেন —মন্ত্রী মহোদয়েরা এটা কোরছেন না, তাঁদের করা উচিত, তা না বোলে অবাস্তব কথা বলছেন কেন?

Maulvi ABDUR RAZZAK : আমিও তো Sir, তাহাই বলিতেছি। এই মন্ত্রীরা, লীগ মন্ত্রী, লীগের নেতা ও মেম্বরগণ হলেন সিয়া, সেই সিয়াদের দ্বারা মিলাদ শরীফ বন্ধ হইয়াছে। সেই সিয়াদের সম্বন্ধে বলতে পারবো না কেন, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER : সে সম্বন্ধে বিস্তর বলেছেন, আর দরকার নাই।

Maulvi ABDUR RAZZAK : কোরাণ শিক্ষা না হওয়াতে মুসলমানদের ধর্ম্মের যে ব্যাঘাত হইয়াছে তার দৃষ্টান্তই আমি দিতেছিলাম। নানা বাধায় আমার সব কথা বলা হয় নাই। আমার বলার উদ্দেশ্য হইল বাংলার বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডল সিয়া লীগের দ্বারা পরিচালিত হওয়ায় এখানে আমাদের মুসলমানদের ধর্ম্মের বা সমাজের কোন উন্নতির আশা নাই। এইজন্য বাংলার মুসলমান-দের অবহিত হওয়া উচিত এদেশে যেন সিয়া মন্ত্রিত্ব না থাকে। আমরা এই সিয়া মন্ত্রিত্বের প্রতিবাদ করি। আমাদের নোয়াখালিতে District Boardএর nominationএর সময় মন্ত্রীমহোদয়কে বলিয়াছিলাম আপনারা সিয়া-পন্থা ছেড়ে দিন, মুসলমান যাতে সিয়াপন্থী না হয়, তার জন্য এখানে ছেলেদের প্রকৃত মুসলমান করিয়া তোলার জন্য কোরাণ শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করুন, যাতে রোজা নামাজ বজায় থাকার ব্যবস্থা হয় সেইরূপ শিক্ষা চালান।

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, মৌলবী আবদুর রেজ্জাক সাহেব প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়সমূহে কোরাণ পাঠের বন্দোবস্ত করিতে গভর্ণমেণ্টের অক্ষমতা সম্বন্ধে আলোচনার্থ যে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব এনেছেন বেঙ্গল লেজিস্লেটিভ এসেম্বলী ওলামা পার্টির পক্ষে সেই প্রস্তাবের সমর্থনে আমি দু'কথা পরিষদে উপস্থিত করিতে চাই। মৌলবী আবদুর রেজ্জাক সাহেব কোরাণ শিক্ষার অভাবে মুসলমানের দুর্গতি ও দুরবস্থার কথা পরিষদে বিশদভাবে বোঝাবার চেষ্টা কোরেছেন, কিন্তু এই পরিষদের গভর্ণমেণ্ট পার্টির কয়েকজন সভ্যের বাধাবিঘ্ন সৃষ্টির ফলে মৌলবী সাহেব বিশদভাবে কথাটা উপস্থিত করতে পারেন নাই। কোরাণ মুসলমানের আসল বস্তু; প্রত্যেক মুসলমানের শিক্ষার সূত্র, দীক্ষার সূত্র, ধর্ম্মের সূত্র, মুসলমানের জীবনের সূত্র—কোরাণের সঙ্গে গ্রথিত রহিয়াছে এবং প্রত্যেক মুসলমানের জীবনের সূত্র হজরত রসুলুল্লা মহম্মদ মুস্তফার ধর্ম্ম, কর্ম্ম, সামাজিক ও রাজনৈতিক জীবনের শিক্ষা, দীক্ষার এবং তাঁহার পবিত্র সুন্নতের সহিত জড়িত রহিয়াছে। যে মুসলমানের শিক্ষা, দীক্ষা, ধর্ম্ম ও কর্ম্মের সূত্র কোরাণের সঙ্গে হজরত রসুলুল্লার শিক্ষা, দীক্ষার সঙ্গে জড়িত থাকিবে সেই মুসলমান পথভ্রষ্ট হইতে পারে না। সেই মুসলমান কখনও কোরাণের শিক্ষা সম্বন্ধে আলোচনার সময় উচ্চবাচ্য করতে পারে না। যদি করে, তবে সে মুসলমান ধর্ম্মের বিধান লঙ্ঘন করে, তাহাকে বেয়াদব বলা যাইতে পারে (Dr. ABDUL MOTALAB MALIK: বলুন সব কাফের বনেছে)।

Mr. Speaker, Sir, এই বাংলা দেশের বুকের উপর তিনটা মন্ত্রিসভার গঠন ও কর্ত্তৃত্ব লাভ দেখেছি—আমাদের এই কয় বৎসরের পরিষদ জীবনে। সর্ব্বপ্রথম লীগ কোয়ালিশান মন্ত্রিসভা দেখেছি, তারপরে সেটা ভেঙ্গে প্রগতিশীল মিলিত মন্ত্রিসভা দেখেছি, তারপর এখন খাঁটি লীগ মন্ত্রিসভা দেখছি। এই বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিসভার আমলে কোরাণ শিক্ষার প্রতি বা মুসল-মানের ধর্ম্ম শিক্ষার প্রতি বিন্দুমাত্র সহানুভূতিও আমরা পাই নাই। দেশের লোকের বিশেষ

আশা-ভরসা ছিল—যে বর্ত্তমান লীগ মন্ত্রিসভার সময় মুসলমানদের শিক্ষা, দীক্ষা বিশেষভাবে উন্নতির পথে অগ্রসর হবে, এবং মুসলীম শিক্ষা-মন্ত্রীর মস্তিষ্ক থেকে মুসলমান সমাজের উন্নতির জন্য শিক্ষা বিষয়ের একটা নূতন scheme উপস্থিত হবে। কিন্তু আমাদের সে আশা-ভরসা অঙ্কুরেই বিনষ্ট হয়েছে। নূতন scheme হওয়া তো দূরের কথা Primary শিক্ষার মধ্যে কোরাণ শিক্ষার বন্দোবস্তটা পর্য্যন্ত তিনি করেন নাই। কোরাণ পাঠ প্রাইমারী শিক্ষাতে থাকা একান্ত উচিত, গভর্ণমেণ্ট কতকগুলি সিনিয়র ইসলামিয়া মাদ্রাসার সাহায্যের বন্দোবস্ত করেছেন কিন্তু old scheme junior মাদ্রাসায়, কোরাণিয়া ও হাফেজিয়া Madrassaর জন্য কোন বন্দোবস্ত করেন নাই বরং অবহেলা করিতেছেন; আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি বাংলা সরকারের শিক্ষা-সচিবকে, যদি কেবল উপরে H. E. স্কুল থাকে, কিন্তু যদি তার চারিপাশে কতকগুলি M. E. স্কুল না থাকে তবে H. E. স্কুলে চলবে কি করে? ছাত্র পাবে কোথায়? তেমি এই কলকাতায় যে এতগুলি কলেজ আছে তাতে ছাত্র জোগাবার জন্য অসংখ্য H. E. স্কুল আছে। আর অতগুলি স্কুল-কলেজ না থাকলে কলিকাতা University কি চলতে পারতো? ঠিক সেই রকম গোড়াতে old scheme junior মাদ্রাসা, হাফেজিয়া ও কোরাণিয়া মাদ্রাসা না থাকিলে old scheme উচ্চ শিক্ষা-ক্ষেত্রে ইসলামিয়া মাদ্রাসায় ছাত্র জুটবে কোথা হইতে? মাননীয় ফজলুল হক সাহেব প্রধান মন্ত্রী থাকা কালে তিনিই প্রথমে old scheme senior ইসলামিয়া মাদ্রাসায় গভর্ণমেণ্ট হইতে সাহায্য দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করেন। তাঁর এই ব্যবস্থার উন্নতির জন্য বর্ত্তমান শিক্ষা-মন্ত্রী কোন চেষ্টা করেন নাই। সারা বাংলার মুসলমান সমাজ সেজন্য তাঁর নিকট কৃতজ্ঞ। Senior ইসলামিয়া মাদ্রাসার সংখ্যা অনেক বৃদ্ধিপ্রাপ্ত হইয়াছে, কিন্তু বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষার সাহায্যের যে পরিমাণ বন্দোবস্ত করেছেন তা প্রয়োজনের তুলনায় অতি নগণ্য। আসল কথা এই যে বর্ত্তমান লীগ মন্ত্রিসভা প্রকৃত ধর্ম্ম শিক্ষা বাংলা দেশের মুসলমানদের দিতে নারাজ, যদি প্রকৃত কোরাণের শিক্ষা, হাদিসের শিক্ষা, দীক্ষার প্রচার হয় তাহলে যে উলেমা সম্প্রদায়ের হাতে ক্ষমতা চোলে যাবে, এবং তাঁদের সাধের কেল্লা ভেঙ্গে যাবে, দেশের মধ্যে আর তাঁরা প্রাধান্য করতে পারবেন না। কারণ ইসলামের কোরাণ ও হাদিস অনুযায়ী রাজনীতি ও ধর্ম্মনীতি পৃথক নহে, ওলামারাই মুসলমানের নায়ক। প্রকৃত শিক্ষা প্রচার হইলে ইসলাম ও তাহার পয়গম্বর হইতে লোকদের দূরে রাখা যেতে পারে না।

Sir, আজকে আপনার through দিয়ে আমি শিক্ষা-সচিবকে জানাচ্ছি—যদি তিনি বাংলার মুসলমানদের আস্থা লাভ করতে চান তবে যেন অগৌণে হাফেজিয়া মাদ্রাসা, কোরাণিয়া মাদ্রাসা ও old scheme junior মাদ্রাসার উপযুক্ত সাহায্যের বন্দোবস্ত করেন। Assistant Director for Mahomedan Educationএর নামে জনৈক কর্ম্মচারীকে অতি উচ্চ হারে মাইনে দেওয়া হয় তা ছাড়া Muslim educationএর নামে পাঁচটি বিভাগে পাঁচ জন Assistant Inspectors রয়েছেন তাহাদের জন্য আবার স্বতন্ত্র staff রয়েছেন। এইভাবে মাত্র কয়েকটি পরিবারের জন্য অর্থাগমের বন্দোবস্ত না করে ঐ পদগুলি উঠাইয়া দিয়া সেই টাকা বাংলার মুসলমানদের শিক্ষার খাতে খরচ করা উচিত। তাহলে বাংলার মুসলমানদের শিক্ষার উন্নতি হতো। কিন্তু যদি মান্ধাতার দিনের মতনই শিক্ষানীতি চলতেই থাকে তবে লীগ মন্ত্রীদের নিকট আমরা মুসলমানদের জন্য কি পেলাম? আমি পুনঃ জিজ্ঞাসা করছি তাঁরা ইসলামিয়া কোরাণিয়া, হাফেজিয়া প্রভৃতি শিক্ষার জন্য আজ আমাদের সম্মুখে সন্তোষজনক কি উপস্থিত করেছেন? (A voice: যা চান তাই করেছি।) আমি আজকে গভর্ণমেণ্টপন্থী সদস্য মহোদয়দের জানিয়ে দিচ্ছি—Bengal Assemblyতে বোসে ইসলামিয়া শিক্ষাকে, কোরাণ শিক্ষাকে ও আলেমদিগকে তারা বিদ্রূপ করতে পারেন, কিন্তু আমি জানিয়ে দিচ্ছি All-Bengal Jamiat Ulema-Association শরিয়ত অমান্যকারী শিয়া, খারেজি ও রাফেজিদের বিরুদ্ধে প্রবল আন্দোলন আরম্ভ

করিয়াছেন। কোরাণ হাদিসের শিক্ষাবর্জিত আধা-ফিরিঙ্গি, আধা-হিন্দু, আধা-আতশ পোরস্তের নেতৃত্ব, স্বেচ্ছাচারিতা ও অহঙ্কার—আলেম সমাজ অবহেলার চক্ষে দেখিতে পারেন না। বাংলা ও ভারতের আলেম পীরগণ তাঁহাদের মহান কর্ত্তব্যে অগ্রসর হয়েছেন। এই ধর্ম্ম-বিরোধী লীগ পার্টির উচ্ছেদের জন্য আলেম সমাজ পরিষদের ভিতরে ও বাইরে work করবেন, আপনাদের হাতে আছে লাঠি, ফেরাউনের ক্ষমতা, আর আমাদের আছে সত্য ও ধর্ম্ম, আলেম সমাজের নেতৃত্বে মোসলমান, এমাম হোসাইনের মত শহিদ হইতে প্রস্তুত আছে, তবুও কাছেক ও কাজেরের নেতৃত্ব স্বীকার করিয়া পাপী হইবেন না। আমি challenge দিচ্ছি জনসাধারণের মধ্যে দাঁড়িয়ে প্রতিপন্ন করুন কারা আজ মোসলমান জনসাধারণের প্রকৃত প্রতিনিধি। (Noise and interruption.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

(Mr. Shah Syed Golam Sarwar Hosaini then resumed his seat and several members from both sides of the House rose to speak.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I find there are other motions yet to be moved and I shall take them up first.

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,82,73,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, I move this motion to raise a discussion about inadequacy of grants to Sanskrit tols.

এই দেশে ইংরেজ শাসনের আমলে রাজনৈতিক দাসত্বের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে শিক্ষা ও সংস্কৃতির দাসত্বও আরম্ভ হয়। প্রাচীন ভারতে স্মরণাতীত কাল থেকে সমগ্র সমাজকে বিদ্যা দানের ব্যবস্থা ছিল গুরুকুলের ভিতর দিয়ে, এবং ইহা ছিল দানের বস্তু। কিন্তু পাশ্চাত্য দেশে বিদ্যা ছিল পণ্যবস্তু। যাঁরা অধ্যাপক ছিলেন তাঁরা ছাত্রদের নিকট থেকে মোটা রকমের অর্থ আদায় করিতেন। কিন্তু ভারতবর্ষেই শুধু গুরুকুলের মধ্য দিয়া সমগ্র ছাত্র সমাজ বিনা বেতনে এবং ভরণপোষণ সহ শিক্ষালাভ করিতেন। এবং এইসব অধ্যাপকদের পোষণ করিতেন সমাজ এবং রাষ্ট্র। এইভাবেই ভারতের শিক্ষা প্রবর্ত্তিত হয়ে এসেছিল যতদিন না ইংরেজ রাজত্ব আরম্ভ হয়। আরম্ভ হবার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে পাশ্চাত্য জাতির ইতর মনোবৃত্তি শিক্ষায়তনের মধ্যে আত্মপ্রকাশ করল। কিন্তু আজ পর্য্যন্ত প্রাচীন ভারতের বিনা বেতনে শিক্ষার নীতি প্রবর্ত্তিত আছে টোলের মধ্যে। আমরা চাই এই টোলগুলি আধুনিক শিক্ষা এবং সমাজ ব্যবস্থার সহিত সামঞ্জস্য রেখে গড়ে উঠুক, এবং আমাদের সম্মুখে মহতী আদর্শ গঠিত হউক, এবং সেই আদর্শ যেন পাশ্চাত্য ইতর বুদ্ধির দ্বারা প্রণোদিত না হয়। আমাদের সেই আদর্শ এখনও ক্ষীণ ধারায় টোলের মধ্যে বিদ্যমান থেকে আত্মবিস্মৃত জাতিকে স্মরণ করিয়ে দিচ্ছে শিক্ষাকে যেন কখনই পণ্যসামগ্রী না করা হয়। এই টোলগুলিকে গভর্ণমেণ্ট আজ অবহেলা করছেন এবং আমাদের সমাজের লোকও এইগুলিকে অবহেলা করছেন। ফলে টোলগুলি লুপ্ত হচ্ছে। রাজশক্তি যাদের অবহেলা করে সমাজও তাদের অবহেলা করে। বাংলায় এক হাজার টোল বিদ্যমান তার জন্য ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে মাত্র ১০ হাজার টাকা। এই সকলের ছাত্রদের নিকট হতে বেতন গ্রহণ করা নরকে গমনের ন্যায়। এইসব শিক্ষায়তনগুলির ভরণপোষণের ভার সমাজের এবং রাষ্ট্রের উপর।

এই সঙ্গে একটা কথা বলা দরকার। এইবার মাদ্রাসাগুলির জন্য ১ লক্ষ টাকার বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে। অবশ্য তাতে আমার বিন্দুমাত্র আপত্তি নাই। কিন্তু আজ যখন চাকরীর ব্যাপারে সমান সংখ্যানুপাত তখন কোন নীতি অনুসারে টোলের সাহায্য হোল ১০ হাজার টাকা আর মাদ্রাসার বরাদ্দ হোল ১ লক্ষ টাকা। এর দ্বারা কি প্রমাণিত হয় না যে হিন্দুদের ধর্ম্ম এবং সংস্কৃতির প্রতি অবহেলা প্রকাশ করা হচ্ছে। [illegible]

তার চেষ্টা করতে পারেন এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে আমরাও আমাদের প্রতিবাদ জানাতে চাই। এই নীতি পরিণামে সমগ্র সমাজের মধ্যে একটা নূতন বিদ্বেষ জাগ্রত করে তুলবে যার ফলে সমগ্র সমাজ বিপন্ন হয়ে পড়বে। তাই আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টকে বলছি যেন টোলের জন্যে এক লক্ষ টাকা মঞ্জুর করা হউক।

Maulana ABDUL AZIZ : প্রাইমারী শিক্ষার বিষয় নিয়ে অনেক আলোচনা হয়েছে। বিশেষ কোরে আমার বন্ধু মৌলবী আবদুর রেজ্জাক সাহেব যে একটা cut motion যখন আনয়ন করেন আমি প্রথমতঃ তখন মনে করেছিলাম এর বিরুদ্ধে কিছু বলবার থাকবে না। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় তিনি এমন জিনিষের কথা পরিষদে বুঝাতে চেয়েছেন যার অবতারণা করা অন্যায় হয়েছে। তিনি যদি বুঝে থাকেন তবে তিনি নিজেই সতর্ক হবেন, আর যদি না বুঝে ওরূপ কোরে থাকেন তবে তিনি দয়ার পাত্র। তাঁর কোরাণ শিক্ষার আলোচনার সম্বন্ধে এই বলা যায় বাংলার প্রাইমারী শিক্ষায় যে কোরাণ শিক্ষা নাই এটা আমরাও অনুভব করছি। আমার নামেও যে সম্বন্ধে cut motion ছিল। কিন্তু এই cut motionএর আলোচনা প্রসঙ্গে ভারতের একজন মহামান্য নেতা যে সিয়া একথা অবতারণা করার তাঁর পক্ষে কোন কারণ দেখি না। (A member from the opposition benches : কেন তাঁর নাম কি আপনি জানেন না ?)

আমি মৌলবী সাহেবকে বলতে চাই যে—মিঃ জিন্না সাহেবের নেতৃত্ব গ্রহণের বহু আগে এমন কি তাঁর জন্মেরও আগে এই সিয়া সুন্নি বিবাদের সৃষ্টি হয়েছে অতএব এটা নিয়ে তাঁর ঘাড়ে সব দোষ চাপিয়ে দেবার কারণ আমি বুঝতে পারি না। এই অন্যায় কথাটা মৌলবী সাহেবকে এ পরিষদে আনতে দেখে বাংলা দেশের সেই প্রচলিত প্রবাদ মনে হয়,—অর্থাৎ এটা যেন ধান ভানতে শিবের গীত গাওয়া। তিনি কোরাণ শরীফের কথা, তার শিক্ষার কথা বোলতে যেয়ে মুসলীম লীগ সম্বন্ধে সমালোচনা করেছেন তাও না হয় করলেন, কিন্তু জিন্না সাহেবকে এর মধ্যে টেনে আনলেন কেন ? আমার বিশ্বাস, আমি যতদূর জানি জিন্না সাহেব, বাংলার বা ভারতের যে কোন স্থানে মিলাদ শরীফ হতে তাঁর আপত্তি নাই। (Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY : আবার জিন্নার কথা কেন ?)

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, Order.

Maulana ABDUL AZIZ : অতএব এই আলোচনার মধ্যে কতকগুলি অবান্তর কথা বলবার চেষ্টা হয়েছে। সেইজন্য আবদুর রেজ্জাক সাহেবের বক্তৃতা আমরা follow করতে পারি নাই। তিনি বোধ হয় বলতে ইচ্ছা করেছিলেন যে কোরাণ শিক্ষা হচ্ছে না, এবং এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলের অপরাধের জন্য। তার কারণ স্বরূপ তিনি উল্লেখ করেছেন মন্ত্রিগণ মুসলীম লীগের দ্বারা প্রভাবান্বিত এবং লীগ নেতা হচ্চেন মিঃ জিন্না এবং তিনি সিয়া।

Mr. SPEAKER : আপনার যতটুকু উত্তর দেবার জন্য দরকার আমি আপনাকে বাধা দেবো না, তাছাড়া যদি লক্ষ্ণৌয়ের কথা আনতে চান, আমি permission দেবো না।

Maulana ABDUL AZIZ : বাংলা দেশে মিলাদ শরীফ বন্ধ করার কোন কথা নাই। তবু অকারণে ঐসব বিষয়ের অবতারণা আমি অন্যায় মনে করি। সিয়া সম্প্রদায়ভুক্ত বলে একজন মাননীয় লোকের অপমানকর বিষয়ের অবতারণা ঠিক নয়।

Mr. SPEAKER : আপনি সংক্ষেপ করুন, আর সময় বেশী দেওয়া যাবে না।

Maulana ABDUL AZIZ : সিয়া সুন্নি আছে, থাকবে। এখনো যে দেশে সিয়া আছে, সেই দেশেই সুন্নি আছে। এখন সময় হয়েছে পরস্পর বিভেদের সৃষ্টি না কোরে একতাবদ্ধ হওয়া। অন্য সম্প্রদায়ের প্রভাবে মুসলীমদের একতাভঙ্গ করা উচিত নয়, তার ফলে মুসলীমের একটা ছিনিমিনি হয়ে যাবে। সিয়ারাই যেন অন্যায় করেছে মানলাম, কিন্তু উনি নিজে সুন্নি হয়ে কি করে অন্যায়টা করলেন ? কাজেই অন্যকে অপমান না কোরে নিজেকে ভাল করার চেষ্টা করুন।

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED : মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব! শিক্ষা সম্বন্ধে যে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত হয়েছে আমি তা সমর্থন করছি এবং বিশেষ করে মৌলভী আবদুর রেজ্জাক সাহেব প্রাইমারী শিক্ষার মধ্যে কোরাণ শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা না থাকার দরুণ যে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত করেছেন সেটা বিশেষভাবে সমর্থন করছি। যদি দেশে প্রাইমারী শিক্ষার প্রবর্তন না হয় তাহলে উচ্চ শিক্ষা এবং মধ্য শিক্ষা আসবে কোথা থেকে। এই প্রাইমারী শিক্ষার জন্য মাত্র ৬৬,৮৯,১০০৲ টাকা ব্যয়-বরাদ্দ দেখে মনে হয় যে বর্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী চান না যে দেশের লোক শিক্ষিত হউক। তাদের ইচ্ছা "ফেরাউনের" রাজত্ব স্থাপন করা। যখন ফেরাউন খোদাই দাবী করেছিল তখন তাঁর মন্ত্রী উপদেশ দিয়েছিলেন যে দেশ থেকে ধর্ম শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা একেবারে তুলে দেওয়া হউক। নতুবা তোমাকে কেহ খোদা বলে মানবে না।

তারপর আজকে দেখা যাচ্ছে সিয়া সুন্নির বিবাদ। বাহিরে সিয়া সুন্নি বিবাদ এবং পরিষদের ভিতর সুন্নি আর জিন্নিতে বিবাদ। আমি এটাকে সুন্নি-জিন্নি বিবাদ বলবো কারণ জিন্না সাহেবের নীতি যাঁরা গ্রহণ করেছেন তাঁরা হলেন "জিন্নি", আমরা হচ্ছি সুন্নি। আজকে লীগের নাম নিয়ে সমস্ত মুসলমান সমাজকে ভুল পথে নিয়ে যাবার চেষ্টা হচ্ছে। সরকারী নীতির পিছনে রয়েছে জিন্না সাহেবের প্রভাব এবং তার উদ্দেশ্য হচ্ছে যে যেন কোন সুন্নি মুসলমান নামাজ পড়তে না পারে। সিয়ার দল পবিত্র মক্কায় গিয়ে হজ্জ করতে রাজী নয়, সিয়ারা কারবালার মাটিকে পবিত্র মক্কা হতেও পবিত্র মনে করে এবং তারা সেখানেই হজ্জ করে থাকে। ইরাণের একজন সিয়া এবার হজের সময় পবিত্র মক্কা শরীফের ঘরে পায়খানা ছিটাইবার জন্য ফাঁসী হয়েছিল। সেই সিয়া সম্প্রদায়ের যারা চেলা তাদের "জিন্নি" ছাড়া আর কিছুই বলা যেতে পারে না। কোন সুন্নি মুসলমান কখনও সিয়াকে ইমাম মানতে পারে না। আমি বহুকাল যাবৎ প্রাইমারী স্কুলের মাষ্টারী করেছি এবং প্রাইমারী স্কুলের মাষ্টারদের দুঃখের কথা আমি সবিশেষ অবগত আছি। নিত্য-প্রয়োজনীয় জিনিষের দাম ক্রমাগতই বেড়ে যাচ্ছে অথচ অনেক স্কুলের মাষ্টার বেতন পাচ্ছে না। ময়মনসিংহ জেলার শিক্ষা বোর্ডের Chairman একজন লীগ নেতা, তিনি চাইছেন এইসব শিক্ষকেরা যেন বিশেষ করে লীগের propagandaয় মত্ত থাকে। শিক্ষার প্রতি উদাসীনতা ক্রমেই বেড়ে চলেছে, শিক্ষার বিস্তার দূরে থাক। স্কুলের ছাত্র নাই, ঘরবাড়ী নাই, কিছুই নাই। এর উপর যথেষ্ট টাকারও বরাদ্দ হচ্ছে না। এখন প্রাইমারী শিক্ষাকে কবর দেওয়া হচ্ছে। এর ফলে বিশেষ করে বাঙ্গালী জনসাধারণ অশিক্ষার তিমিরে পড়ে থাকবে। এইরূপ ব্যবস্থার আমি তীব্র প্রতিবাদ করছি। আজকাল মন্ত্রিত্বের গদীতে যাঁরা বসে আছেন—

Mr. SPEAKER : Your time is up.

Mr. W. C. WORDSWORTH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this group offers its respectful and restrained congratulations to the Hon'ble the Education Minister on a budget whose defects, with one great exception, do not leap to the eye. It is something at a time like this to preserve the ground won, and that has been reasonably done. We can hardly expect the Minister of Education in our present conditions to amass resources for an attack on new grounds. We have all noticed with pleasure that last year something could be done for the distressed teachers of the Midnapore district. The greater omission to which I refer has been already referred to by more than one speaker and that is the lack of some special assistance for teachers this year, for teachers in distressed circumstances, in distressed areas, and specially teachers of Calcutta. Last week there was a discussion in this House which I read with pleasure. I regret I was not here. I was away at Delhi serving,

or trying to serve, my province on an Educational Conference, but I noticed there that the Minister said that he had done his best but had not been able to get those resources. I only hope and trust that he will be more successful this year.

He told us of a scheme that is being worked out for the relief of teachers in general, and we would all say, every group in this House would say, that the sooner that scheme is ready, and the sooner he gets money for it, from the Finance Minister, the better for the province. I would ask you once again to consider the condition of our teachers. In general, in normal times, they not only protect our educational system; they make our educational system. If they were not there, if they broke down, if they revolted, there would be an end to our educational system, and especially to our secondary educational system. This year they have been subjected to very great privations. Many others fled from the city; some fled so fast and so far and carried so many things with them that it was reasonable to believe they meant to quit if not India, at least Bengal. The teachers stuck to their posts; they stuck to their schools, they stuck to the educational system, they have thus saved our education. Let us think of them and do whatever we can to save them. I make my appeal to the Education Minister and through the Education Minister to the Finance Minister, and I would suggest again, as I have suggested before, that parents, some of whom have profited by these times of distress, should do something to help the teachers. For the teachers there is no share in the inflation money, no dearness allowance, no compensation for the difficulties of the time; on the contrary, there have been reductions all round in their small emoluments, reductions of their advantages, reductions of their opportunities, and I think that their distress is a charge on the general community as well as on Government.

I would now say a few things of a more general nature. Education is prominent today in many countries. In England the war has revealed terrible weaknesses in society, terrible weaknesses in education, and it is understood now that they are related as effect and cause. There is thought, determination, to give the country something better. We have had fine reports, a stimulating White Paper and very recently an Education Bill which does offer a beginning of a national system of education, differing in parts only in that the needs of younger children differ from the needs of older children. In India too we have had a beginning of a share in this ferment. In Bengal, we have our Education Bill. I referred last year to that fine document, the Sargent Report as we call it, and I refer now to the recent working on and working over of that report by the Central Advisory Board of Education in which our own Minister has taken an important part and to which he has added an important and valuable note of dissent and comment. What I said about the Sargent Report last year did not receive much publicity outside this House, I regret to say, chiefly because the one paper that I might have persuaded to take note of what I said was not able to do so, because of an unfortunate difference of opinion between two Chairs, the Speaker's and the Editor's, but I would ask the House to consider that document which will soon be put on the market, and to consider this later report, because they are valuable beginnings of a reconstruction of education. We shall soon have an Education Bill before the House, for welcome or rejection—I hope the former. But Bills, legislative measures, Ordinances,

etc., can give us only modifications of structures, some change in content, in method. They cannot give us that great thing upon which the welfare of education depends, the understanding of scope and purpose. The purpose of education must be a national one. It must be worked out by public opinion, by discussion through the organs of public discussion, and specially through a Legislature. Therefore I trust that when the Education Bill comes before us, we shall have opportunities of paying attention to very much more than just the details of reconstruction put before us then. So, I end by asking this question: can we, finding a high common purpose for all classes, master our own difficulties, eliminate impeding interests, some of them in our conditions and some of them in ourselves made by ourselves, can we conquer apathy, get rid of ignorance, and give our children the very best chance of developing all the good in them? Because by giving our children, all children of all classes, of all ages, the best chance of a good education, we are doing the best we can for the country, for the race, for all communities in it. The education problem is not a thing by itself. It is part of the social problem. The great purpose, the great problem of civilisation is this: can we provide a truly civilised education in a truly civilised society? Once again, I refer to the proposals in the Sargent Committee's Report, which will call upon India to find before the year 2000 A.D. 320 crores of rupees every year for education. Can we, with all of India's wealth, develop to that extent? Finally, I should quote the words with which this last report, the Central Advisory Board's comments on the Sargent Report, ends. It ends with a Chinese proverb: if you are planning for one year, plant grain; if you are planning for ten years, plant trees; if you are planning for a hundred years, plant men. That is what we are called upon to do.

Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not think I should take too long a time of this House in saying a few words to the Hon'ble the Education Minister. I offer my congratulations to him for making a provision of Rs. 5,00,000 for the education of Scheduled Caste boys in a budget which has provided about two crores of rupees for education in general. Sir, I have listened with interest to the complaints lodged by my friend, Mr. Patiram Roy about inefficiency or insufficiency of this grant while we are called upon to deal with one-fifth of the total population of this province. Sir, education has been admitted to be something which helps or tends to help a young boy to grow up into wise manhood. Taking that to be the basic ground of my argument I would appeal to the Hon'ble Minister and to the Government just to consider whether about two per cent. of the whole money is enough for the education of a class of people who are not only poor but helpless and educationally backward. Even then in the administration of that grant some difficulties have been brought to my notice causing very great inconvenience to the boys of these unfortunate classes. Out of this amount some help has been sought to be given to them in various ways. First of all, it appears that part of the money has to be spent for giving some grant to the schools run by Scheduled Caste people. Secondly, some of the money has been provided for giving scholarships to them. Some amount of the grant has also been spent for providing for stipends to them. Now, Sir, so far as the distribution of this money is concerned it has appeared that while the year is out the schools have not got the money and

the boys did not get their scholarships and stipends and therefore it has not been possible for most of these boys to carry on their education. Sir, this grant has been provided in the budget but, as I have already said, I would appeal to the Education Minister to see whether or not this amount can be increased. I do not know if the complaint which has been lodged by my honourable friend, Mr. Patiram Roy, if at all well-founded that no money has been spent for want of schemes. After all, so far as Education is concerned, I am sure it does not require enough of schemes for money to be spent in connection with the spread of education among a certain section of boys and girls. So far as scholarships are concerned, there have been unfortunate happenings in the past. We do not know why is it that the list of scholars could not be settled on the results of the final examinations at an early date. So far as the results of the Matriculation, and first degree examinations are concerned, these are not published in order of merit and we do not at once know how individual boys have done in their examinations but so far as the Intermediate Examinations are concerned, the University has been good enough to publish the results in order of merit and we have always been able to find out how the boys have done at the examinations on a perusal of the results as published in the *Calcutta Gazette*. It has transpired, Sir, that in the distribution of scholarships on the results of the Intermediate Examinations some of the boys who were deserving were passed over and when this was brought to the notice of the authorities concerned, it took six months to correct the mistake. I do not know whether it was intentional or not, but if things happen like this, it is not always possible for us to find it out and bring it to the notice of the authorities. When there is a rule that meritorious boys should get some pecuniary help as scholarships to which they are entitled, and if we find that they are not being treated in the way in which they ought to be, things become very very hopeless for them. In the distribution of stipends also my friend has said that some qualification has been introduced. That is a very serious matter for if you add a qualification and say that 15 per cent. of the boys should be entitled to stipends, then the matter becomes very serious for the simple reason that even when a school claims that ten boys are poor and meritorious, only one or two will get the stipend. On the other hand in another school boys who are not as poor or as meritorious as those in the former, may get stipends on the percentage basis. Both these cases are unfair and unjust. I am sure it is never intended. I submit that this state of things should not be allowed to continue and I hope the Education Minister will be good enough to see that such things are rectified.

Now, Sir, there is one other matter to which I would refer before I finish. A few days ago a notice was brought to me indicating that in the Dacca range a sum of Rs. 80 was set apart for granting stipends to certain boys in a particular school and in that particular notice it was mentioned that Re. 1 would be given to a student of the Scheduled Castes or educationally backward class for three months, that is to say, that a boy would get five annas and four pies per month. If things happen like this, one is constrained to remark that there is nothing more ridiculous than that. Once again I appeal to the Education Minister to see that the education of Scheduled Caste boys is conducted in a way which will be conducive to the proper growth of education of those boys. I know that he has much sympathy for the education

of the backward classes, but that sympathy would go for nothing unless it is translated into action. The time has come when the intention of Government is properly put into shape so that there may not be an occasion for us to come forward and ventilate the grievances of the Scheduled Castes on the floor of the House.

With these few words, Sir, I would once again appeal to the Hon'ble the Education Minister to see that the Scheduled Castes education is not overlooked.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, those who are connected with education in this province are well aware how education is passing through a crisis almost unprecedented in the history of Bengal, and it is a matter of deep regret and disappointment that the Education Budget, as presented by the Hon'ble Minister, takes practically no note of the present emergency situation. In the first place, Sir, the educational institutions in Bengal have been very seriously affected on account of the present economic depression in Bengal. Last year when there was bombing and general evacuation in Calcutta and elsewhere education became dislocated and it was the non-official, non-Government institutions in Bengal—primary, secondary and collegiate—which were very severely affected. Schools and colleges had to depend—indeed they have to depend now—on the meagre income coming from the fees of students. The fees were not forthcoming regularly on account of the general economic depression. The result was that the teachers who were already poorly paid practically ceased to receive that minimum allowance which could keep body and soul together. Then in the course of the last few months, this famine crisis came and the reports which have come to us from all parts of the province indicate that unless some step is taken at once—not a question of giving doles of a few thousands or even of a few lakhs of rupees to selected institutions—but unless there is a general programme adopted for helping these educational institutions, I have not the least doubt in my mind that education will suffer a loss from which it will not recover in Bengal.

Sir, the Hon'ble Minister of Education a few days ago made some sort of vague declaration that a big scheme involving an expenditure of about Rs. 50 lakhs was under the consideration of Government. Last year during budget time when there was a united demand from practically all sections of the House that there should be a larger provision of financial aid for non-Government institutions, the Minister took the House into his confidence and admitted that although the Education Department had made a recommendation, ultimately that recommendation was not accepted by the Government as a whole. The House has a right to know what exactly is the position of this scheme of Rs. 50 lakhs. Has that been merely recommended by the Education Department or has it been accepted by the Government as a part and parcel of its educational policy and if 50 lakhs are to be spent on education during this emergency period, it is but meet and proper that a scheme should be properly devised in consultation with all sections of public opinion so that the money may not be mis-spent in any manner whatsoever.

Sir, it is not merely this present emergency that I am thinking of, but I am also thinking of the bigger problem of educational reconstruction in Bengal. Mr. Wordsworth said that he wanted to congratulate the Hon'ble Minister on his admirable restraint, but I do not know whether

Mr. Wordsworth, if he had spoken in the House of Commons about the education budget, would have congratulated any Education Minister in Great Britain who would have starved education in the manner in which the present Government has done in this province; perhaps Mr. Wordsworth would not have the chance of being re-elected to the House of Commons—a chance, of course, which does not exist so far as Bengal is concerned.

Now, Sir, I was looking over a small report on education in Great Britain which has just arrived, published by the Oxford University Press which, I believe, Mr. Wordsworth has seen and which refers to the big reconstruction in education in Great Britain along with the several other measures some of which have been mentioned by Mr. Wordsworth. There the view has been put forward that the Minister of Education in Great Britain should occupy a position in the Cabinet which is second to none compared to the status of the other Cabinet Ministers and so far as funds are concerned for expansion of education they should be lavishly made available to the Education Minister for helping education in every grade starting from University and higher technical and right up to the elementary stage.

Now, here in Bengal educational reconstruction has been delayed and postponed for a long, long time. Why that has been done I do not wish to discuss in detail today, but let educational reconstruction be devised in a manner which will seek educational reconstruction and not educational destruction. What we want is not merely an improvement in the machinery, but we want that the real purpose of education must be served by placing abundant grants at the disposal of those self-less persons who are now devoting their lives to the cause of education in Bengal. You refer to the history of education in any part of the civilised world and you will find that there is no parallel from any part of the world where the non-official efforts have been so lavish for the spread and expansion of education as in the case of Bengal. That was reported by the Saddler Commission, that was reported by the Hartog Committee and every educational commission has reported of this splendid achievement of the people of Bengal that they have spent lavishly on education although the State has not come forward to supplement the resources of the non-official bodies and individuals at every opportune time.

Now, here again, if the Hon'ble Minister desires to put forward any scheme for educational reconstruction, this is the time that he has got to do so. That has to be done not by merely appointing some committees which are constituted on party lines, not by putting *A*, *B*, *C* and *X*, *Y*, *Z* in particular places because travelling allowances have to be paid to certain individuals or certain partymen have to be kept in power, but choose your best men who are authorised to speak on education, bring them out and then devise a scheme of uplift of education affecting the interests of Hindus and Mussalmans and Christians—every Bengalee residing in this province and getting the unanimous approval of the people of Bengal as a whole. That will be the national education of the type that Mr. Wordsworth is speaking of.

I, therefore, Sir, place before the House in all seriousness these two aspects of the problem now facing Bengal. One is the emergent problem. The patient is dying and unless something is done at once with the least possible delay it is no use your devising big schemes of reconstruction, and

that has to be done before the Budget Session closes. We must have a definite assurance coming from the Education Minister whether this elementary responsibility of any civilized Government to keep the educational institutions going which have rendered so useful and splendid services which have been spoken so highly of by all sections of the people should be discharged and whether that educational system will be kept alive by contributing the minimum quota from the State fund. Deficit or no deficit this money has to come and if the Education Minister finds that he is not in a position to carry his colleagues with him, then he should muster courage to place his definite scheme before the House and the public, and there I am sure he will get the support from all sections of the House and also from the public outside.

Sir, there is only one other thing which I would refer to before I sit down and that is the serious condition of the teachers of primary schools, specially in Chittagong, some of whom have recently come to Calcutta and have talked to several members of this House. The condition of the teachers there is deplorable. Of course, I know, Sir, that the condition of teachers of primary and secondary schools is deplorable everywhere, but in Chittagong it has now reached a crisis which renders it impossible for them to carry on their daily existence even for a month or so and they have come here with certain specific proposals to ask for some temporary assistance from Government. The same is the position with regard to *tols*. I do not at all grudge a liberal grant for those special institutions run by Muslims. There should be no communal consideration coming into the matter at all. We want that the *tols* and the madrasahs and those other special institutions which have a position of their own in the educational system of the province serving as they do the special needs of both the great communities should be treated equally My friend Srijut Narendra Nath Das Gupta has read out certain extracts which go to show that only a paltry sum of a few thousand rupees have been granted for *tols*. I know, Sir, from my own personal knowledge that the conditions of these *tols* are almost precarious and there are a large number of distinguished *pandits* who have practically nothing to fall back upon. The doors of private charity being closed they find it impossible to carry on their existence. I know, Sir, that the problem is not an easy one, but the situation being so serious affecting the welfare of millions of Bengal's population, it is a matter of deep regret that the Hon'ble the Education Minister, far from indicating any line of educational reconstruction for future acceptance, has failed to indicate the line which will save education and not deprive Bengal of even the little service that education is rendering to the people of Bengal at this critical juncture.

Mr. W. C. WORDSWORTH: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. May I correct a misapprehension? Dr. Mookerjee seems to have heard me say that we congratulated the Hon'ble Minister for Education on the strength of his budget. What I said was that we wished to offer him restrained congratulation on the budget and that is something quite different.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the time at my disposal is, I think, short (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No, no. We are not in a hurry) and therefore it will not be possible for me to do justice to the demand and to the various criticisms that we have heard from different sections of the House. I agree with one thing that has been said from all

quarters that the provision in the budget for Education is inadequate. Everyone will admit that it is not adequate, but the question is: could we do anything more? (Mr. GIASUDDIN AHMED: Yes.) Sir, one of my friends says "yes". My honourable friend for 16 months supported a Ministry which made no increased provision for secondary and other institutions during the time that the Ministry was in office. I do not blame that Ministry, but I want to open the eyes of honourable members to the seriousness of the situation. There is so little money to be had in Bengal that they could not, probably in spite of every wish they might entertain, provide more money.

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: May I rise, Sir, on a point of explanation. I only wish that the Hon'ble Minister——

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Is it a point of order or a point of personal explanation, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Huq, is it on a point of order or on a point of personal explanation that you are rising?

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It is on a point of personal explanation.

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not arise in this connection.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, some of the departments of the present Government, when it took office, laboured under one difficulty, and the Education Department is one of those departments. The late Ministry in their wisdom had to accept a policy of not spending generally any money on matters that were not connected with the war or with Civil Defence. Therefore we were faced with that situation. Whenever anything had to be done for the so-called nation-building departments, we were faced with that decision of the late Government. I do not say that that decision was unwise in the circumstances of the situation, but that was one difficulty that we had to labour under. In spite of that, Sir, I think we have done something and nothing better could be done.

So far as the present budget is concerned, honourable members will see that there is an increased provision of Rs. 2,25,000 for grants-in-aid to secondary institutions. (Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: One anna per day!) There is an increased provision of Rs. 1 lakh for Arts and Science Colleges. Again, Sir, there is a provision of Rs. 75,000 for new scheme madrasahs, and Rs. 25,000 for old scheme madrasahs and Rs. 10,000 for *tols*. Over and above this, I may say that there is another amount of one lakh of rupees which has been decided to be spent in giving aid of an emergency character to secondary institutions within a very short time. The money will be spent early next year. That money has not been provided in the budget, but since the budget proposals were drawn up Government took that decision and the money will be available for expenditure early in April. Sir, this is what little has been possible for us to do.

Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee has said that the present Ministry has not said a single word about educational reconstruction. Sir, I am surprised that a statement like this could come out of the lips of a man like Dr. Mookerjee. Are we to assume that Dr. Mookerjee does not know anything about the Sargent report? (Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: That is your report!) Sir, under the present circumstances we cannot do anything immediately so far as reconstruction is concerned. Reconstruction has to be started after the war, but we have to plan now and for that the Government

of India took timely steps and they set up a committee of post-war reconstruction and Mr. Sargent, the Educational Adviser of the Government of India——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You are finishing demolition first, so that construction may follow!

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: It is going home, I know, but listen. And that report has been adopted with certain changes by the All-India Advisory Board of Education. Now, Sir, that is an All-India scheme and no one can deny that it is a scheme of a very far-reaching character. In spite of a large amount of money involved in the scheme, something like that will have to be done after the war.

So far as we in Bengal are concerned we here have set up a post-war reconstruction committee and we have also set up a post-war reconstruction sub-committee on education. That committee will consider the Sargent report so far as it is applicable to Bengal and I can say, Sir, that in that committee there are some of the most eminent educationists in Bengal. Therefore it cannot be said that the present Ministry is not bestowing any thought whatsoever to educational reconstruction after the war.

Then, Sir, I would like hurriedly to go through the various motions that have been moved and supported by members of the Opposition. I would like to take them up in the reverse order. Mr. Narendra Nath Das Gupta raised the question of inadequate provision for *tols*. He says that only Rs. 10,000 has been provided for grants-in-aid to *tols*. That is not so. Rs. 10,000 is an additional provision. There is already a provision of Rs. 44,000 and that was the provision during the last Ministry, but we have thought it fit to increase that amount by Rs. 10,000. (Cries of "hear, hear" from the Coalition Party benches.) The amount is not large, I know, but that is all that we could possibly do.

Then, Sir, a comparison has been made with the provision for madrasahs. I do not blame my friends who have raised that point, because there is a misleading statement in the budget itself. The budget shows a sum of Rs. 1 lakh for madrasahs. That includes Rs. 75,000 for new scheme madrasahs, junior and senior. These new scheme madrasahs, junior and senior, are nothing but secondary institutions. The senior new scheme madrasahs teach up to the Matriculation Standard with slight modifications and the junior madrasahs up to the M. E. Standard. Therefore that Rs. 75,000 ought to have gone with Rs. 2,25,000. Leaving that aside, the increased provision for old scheme madrasahs is not Rs. 1,00,000 but Rs. 25,000 and for *tols* it is Rs. 10,000. That will I think clear the misunderstanding.

Maulvi Abdur Razzaq who, I think, is nothing if not shrewd, raised the question of the provision of teaching *Koran* in primary schools. Did he during the regimé of the last Ministry raise that point and was he successful in inducing that Ministry to do something? But his whole object was not that. I can clearly see what his object was. His object was to make some political capital out of the situation. I can easily see that having been discomfited in his fight against the Muslim League in his own constituency the other day he wants to make amends for that by having a gibe at the League and the League Leader on the floor of this House.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: My point of order is this whether you will allow a member in the course of discussing the educational budget to go to some local election affair——

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: But my friend is also ignorant. He probably does not know that there is a provision for religious education in the present primary school curriculum and in most of the schools there is a provision for religious education which includes the reading of the *Koran*. Reading of the *Koran* cannot be excluded from religious education so far as Muslims are concerned. But the real disease is not there. There is that provision. But there is one thing for which we, the present Ministry, are not responsible. It is this that *diniat* or religious education is not an examination subject. As it is not an examination subject, naturally many of the primary schools neglect the teaching of that subject.

My honourable friend Khan Bahadur Abdul Wahab Khan today unfortunately could get no opportunity to speak. He drew my attention only the other day to this point and as soon as he drew my attention to that, I started certain enquiries. I think that there will be no difficulty in introducing an examination so far as the teaching of religious education is concerned.

I will now come to the motion of Mr. Patiram Roy. He has spoken about the Scheduled Caste education. He is naturally doubtful of anything that the present Government may do. (A VOICE: Everybody!) And that is the obsession of the opposition of the present day. May I remind Mr. Roy that this provision of Rs. 5 lakhs was not made last year or the previous year. We have made that provision this year. His suspicion is that this is not going to be a recurring provision. It is no doubt true that in the budget this provision is not shown as a recurring provision but at the time the budget proposals were formulated no cut and dried scheme was before the Government. Therefore it could not be shown at the time of the preparation of the budget as a recurring provision. But what could not be previously done we propose to do. The previous plea was that for want of schemes money could not be spent. We are no longer going to yield to that plea. We shall see that proper schemes come up and that the money is spent. I give you this assurance that the money will be spent and that this amount of Rs. 5 lakhs will not be a casual lump grant but a recurring grant.

Mr. Patiram Roy also raised the question of appointment of Scheduled Caste members in the Education Department. I admit that in the Education Department we have got a very small number of Scheduled Caste officers. No one deplores that situation more than I, but actually it is very difficult to get adequately qualified candidates in all the educational services, particularly in the posts of professors and lecturers. Mr. Patiram Roy pointedly referred to the panel for school-teachers and sub-inspectors. I do not know what was done by the Ministry which he supported but so far as the present Ministry is concerned, I can say this that I examined the last panel that was formed and there I found that the Scheduled Caste proportion was 15 per cent., in accordance with the communal ratio rules. Whenever appointments are made I take good care to see that every possible attempt is made

for giving the Scheduled Castes their proper share. As I have already said, we do not always succeed.

As regards primary education, Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed complains that primary education has not been made free and compulsory. I do not know whether any one under present circumstances can seriously urge that primary education can be made immediately free and compulsory throughout Bengal. The Primary Education Act is now in force in 17 districts and the question of introducing it in several other districts is under consideration. We are doing all that is possible.

Then, Sir, Dr. Mookerjee as well as my honourable friend Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta raised the question of assistance to teachers of secondary schools. Only a few days ago I gave an assurance to this House that the question was under examination and that something was going to be done. Dr. Mookerjee says that it was a vague assurance. I admit, Sir, that it was not very definite, but I think I can give the House a more definite assurance today. I would rather like to read out a statement so far as this matter is concerned:—

"The justice of the claim of teachers to assistance from public funds is admitted by every one. After discussion with the Finance Minister and the Finance Secretary it has been agreed that assistance will be provided for both secondary and primary school teachers to such great extent as the finances of the province will permit. Although the estimates before the House do not include any specific provision for dearness allowance to teachers, I am authorised to give an assurance that arrangements will be made for the payment of what will be, considering the finances of the province, a substantial dearness allowance to both secondary and primary school teachers and I should like to add that the teachers of recognised old scheme madrasahs and *tols* will also be included in the scheme."

I can further assure the House that immediate steps will be taken to bring the scheme into operation, and I see no reason why before the end of April it should not be implemented. The scheme should be applicable to all teachers of approved schools—non-aided secondary schools as well as aided ones. In the case of primary schools, the scheme will be extended to non-distrirt school boards also.

Sir, I oppose all the cut motions.

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I would like to say a word or two regarding the wrong statement——

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Fazlul Huq, I think it would be better if you take some other occasion to explain if there is any wrong statement made with regard to the previous Ministry. You cannot speak at this stage after the Hon'ble Minister has replied.

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, if I speak on this subject on a different occasion, it would not only not suit the occasion on which I may speak but it would also be irrelevant——(Loud noise from the Ministerialist Benches)—— I would ask you to give me only one minute. If I have to defend myself against the mean attacks from the Hon'ble Minister——(Loud noise from the Coalition Benches)——condemning the previous Government, this is the only occasion when I should do so. (Loud noise.) I want to point out that some of the members of the present Cabinet were also in one or the other of the previous Cabinets——(loud noise)——and were responsible for the

budgets of the previous years. The only fault of mine at the present momer is that I am now in the Opposition and therefore all the blame is to b attached to me for what was done by the previous Governments, althoug the present Minister himself was also responsible for the policy of the previou Governments. (Loud noise from the Coalition Benches.)

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand o Rs. 1,82,73,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Patiram Roy that the demand of Rs. 1,82,73,000 fo expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced by Rs. 10(was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Abdur Razzak that the demand of Rs. 1,82,73,00 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced b Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs. 1,82,73,00 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" be reduced b Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Sj. Narendra Nath Das Gupta that the demand o Rs. 1,82,73,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General' be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan that a sum o Rs. 1,82,73,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" was then put and agreed to.

37—Education—Anglo-Indian and European.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, on the recommendation o His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 11,26,800 b granted for expenditure under the head "37—Education—Anglo-Indian an European."

Mr. W. C. WORDSWORTH: Sir, if I take two minutes of the time o the House it is only to touch upon two points. the first, that the Europea schools all over the province, especially in Calcutta, have been dislocate by the circumstances of the time, especially by requisition of buildings b the army. They are working in pieces all over the country, from Calcutt to Simla, and I am asked to say a word of thanks to the many officials an non-officials, the many in public life and in private life, men and women o all communities, who offered their kindness and their services to these schools If it had not been for this, the schools would not have been able to carry o their work in the present adverse conditions. The other point is this: thei Indian pupils have generally been severed from European schools becaus their parents have not been able to send them away to various places in Indi in these small parcels. I am asked to say that European schools value thei Indian pupils and their connection with Indian families, and hope that these relations will be resumed in fulness after the present emergency is over.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan that a sum o Rs. 11,26,800 be granted for expenditure under the head "37—Education—Anglo-Indian and European" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 6-55 p.m. till 3-30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 14th March, 1944, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 14th March, 1944, at 3-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 13 Hon'ble Ministers and 199 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Foodstuffs supplied to restaurants, cafés and hotels in Chittagong town.

*163. **Dr. SANAULLAH:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of—

(*i*) restaurants,
(*ii*) cafés, and
(*iii*) hotels

that have been started in the town of Chittagong since the creation of the Civil Supplies Department;

(*b*) the number of them that existed in the said town before that date; and

(*c*) the quantity of—

(*i*) rice,
(*ii*) *atta*,
(*iii*) flour,
(*iv*) dal,
(*v*) sugar,
(*vi*) kerosene,

and six other articles supplied to each of them?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) and (*b*) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table.

(*c*) Detailed figures are not readily available.

Statement referred to in reply to clauses (a) and (b) of starred question No. 163.

	Number in existence before the creation of the Civil Supplies Department.	Number started since the creation of the Civil Supplies Department.
Restaurants	45	50
Cafés	15	28
Hotels	149	73

Deaths due to starvation in Jessore.

*164. **Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state the number of people that have up to date died of starvation for want of food supply in the district of Jessore?

MINISTER in charge of the CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): No deaths have been recorded as wholly due to starvation.

Number of appointments in the Alipore Collectorate.

*165. **Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of new clerical appointments made by the present District Magistrate of 24-Parganas in the Alipore Collectorate;

(*ii*) the number of them that are (1) Muslim, (2) Caste Hindu, and (3) Scheduled Castes;

(*iii*) the number of vacancies that have been filled up by promotion by the present Magistrate in the Alipore Collectorate; and

(*iv*) the number of them that have gone to the Muslim?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in making the appointments as referred to in (*a*) (*i*) and (*iii*) the Communal Ratio Rule was observed?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of making an enquiry into the matter at an early date?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea): (*a*) (*i*) Permanent—9; Temporary—71.

	Permanent.	Temporary.
(*ii*) (1) Muslims	.. 5	31
(2) Caste Hindus	.. 3	32
(3) Scheduled Caste	.. 1	8
(*iii*) (1) From Lower Division to Upper Division		2
(2) From Sub-grade to Lower Division		5

(*iv*) (1) In the Upper Division—2 Muslims.
(2) In the Lower Division—1 Muslim.

(*b*) With regard to permanent appointments the Communal Ratio Rules were followed, but with regard to temporary appointments the rules could not be followed as these appointments had to be made urgently for the reorganisation of the Civil Supply Department of the Collectorate and there were not sufficient Muslim and Scheduled Caste candidates in the waiting list. Fresh lists of suitable candidates of these two communities are being prepared and excess in the appointment of Caste Hindu candidates will be adjusted when further appointments are made in future.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Promotion in the Finance Department and claims of the Muslims.

***166. Maulvi MD. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many lower division assistants in the Department were earmarked for promotion to the upper division during the period from 1931 to 1942;

(*ii*) how many of them were Muslims;

(*iii*) how many lower division assistants were promoted to the upper division during the period from 1932 to 1943; and

(*iv*) how many of them were Muslims?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be also pleased to state how many Muslims' claims were superseded in the Department during each of the years from 1931 to 1943 in the matter of—

(*i*) earmarking lower division assistants for promotion to upper division;

(*ii*) promoting lower division assistants to upper division;

(*iii*) promoting upper division assistants to the posts of Head Assistants; and

(*iv*) promoting Head Assistants or Registrar to the posts of Assistant Secretaries?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether—

(*i*) there are any cases in which Muslim assistants were not allowed promotion on the ground that they did not attain certain age although they were efficient; and

(*ii*) there are any cases in which Hindus who did not attain the age referred to in (*i*) have been promoted?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps he proposes to take in this matter?

MINISTER in charge of the FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra Goswami): (*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Statement referred to in reply to clauses (a) and (b) of starred question No. 166.

	1937 (from 1st April).	1938.	1940.	1941.	1943.	1944.
(*a*) (*i*) ..	5	..	2	2	4	2
(*ii*) ..	..	..	1	..	2	2
(*iii*) ..	1	2	1	1	1	..
(*iv*) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(*b*) (*i*) ..	1	..	..	5	3	..
(*ii*) ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
(*iii*) ..	..	1	..	..	3	..
(*iv*) ..	..	Nil	..	..	..	..

Prohibition of manufacture of "gur" in certain places of North Bengal.

*166A. **Mr. ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR** (SHORT NOTICE): (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department be pleased to state if it is a fact that—

(*i*) in North Bengal in the districts of Bogra, Rajshahi, Dinajpur and Rangpur, notices have recently been served to growers of sugar-cane not to make *gur* or molasses without license;

(*ii*) from 18 miles on either side of the railway lines they have been ordered to carry their crops to purchasing centres established by sugar mill-owners; and

(*iii*) hardship is being caused by such restriction on the cane-growers?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the price offered to cane-growers for their canes is uneconomic?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE, LABOUR and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Shahabuddin): (*a*) No. With a view to maximisation of sugar production this year, the order issued in pursuance of the Gur Control Order, 1943, in December last, provided for cordoning of an area of 10 miles round sugar mills and their cane-receiving stations described as Schedule "A" in which manufacture of *gur* was entirely prohibited and of an outer cordon of 8 miles described as Schedule "B" in which such manufacture was permitted, subject to certain conditions. The position has since been reviewed by Government and it has been decided that for the purpose of the Order, Schedule "B" should be deleted and no permission to manufacture *gur* in the areas covered by this schedule is required. As regards Schedule "A", the local officers have been given discretion to grant license for the manufacture of *gur* in areas covered by this schedule, subject *inter alia* to the condition that transport difficulties in moving cane to the purchasing centres or the mill gate are such that it is not physically possible for the growers to carry their cane to the receiving station or that the cane offered to the mill is refused.

(*b*) No. The prices fixed by Government, viz., Re.1 at receiving stations and Re. 1-2 at the mill gate are considered quite reasonable and this was done in full consideration of the prices of alternative crops, transport charges and other relevant economic factors.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to the decision reported about the exemption of areas under Schedule B, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the date when this decision to exempt the second cordoned area was taken and when was that decision of Government actually communicated to the villagers concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, it is not possible for me to give the exact date, but it is quite recently, I will admit that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that arrangements for crushing cane for making *gur* has ordinarily to be made earlier in the season about the months of November and December so that necessary crushing mills may be available?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: It is a fact that arrangements have got to be made earlier in the season but, if I may add, these

arrangements were in existence and the prohibitory order has in no way dislocated the arrangements.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that along with the prohibitory order arrangements were made by the local officials to see that no machines for crushing sugarcane other than those used for the purpose of the mills may be used and they took steps to seal some of them up?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I do not think the assertion of my friend is correct.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that Messrs. Alcock & Co. who are the largest supplier and Messrs. Renick & Co. who are also another big supplier had already entered into arrangements previously to utilise their machinery more fully elsewhere?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Government have no information.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government are aware of great hardship being experienced by the sugarcane-growers for the late decision of Government for releasing them to manufacture *gur* and they cannot make necessary arrangements for manufacturing *gur* this season?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: As I have stated earlier our information is quite contrary to that. The prohibitory order did not dislocate arrangements for the manufacture of *gur*.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact or not that the prohibitory orders were issued in the interests of the sugar mills?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: No, Sir, it was just to maximise the production of sugar.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact or not that Government issued this order without taking any census of the production of *gur* or the machinery for the production of *gur* in the areas affected by the prohibitory order?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I have stated that the main purpose of the order was to maximise the manufacture of sugar and the other portion of the question, I submit, does not arise.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to refer to the last portion of his answer and state what are the other conditions contemplated in granting licenses in Schedule A areas? I want to know what is meant by "*inter alia*".

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: As I mentioned, some of the conditions for giving permission for the manufacture of *gur* in Schedule A areas have been stated and others were, whether it was economically possible for the cultivators to convey their sugarcane to the mills and such other conditions which are too many to enumerate.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has not made any effort to understand me. He is confusing between considerations and conditions. My question is which are the other conditions subject to which licences have to be granted in Schedule A areas—conditions and not considerations.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: My friend has misunderstood my answer, I would submit. My answer is this that under certain conditions only the permission for the manufacture of *gur* in Schedule A areas could be given and the conditions were that if they found that there were physical impediments in conveying canes to the mill gate or that it was not an economic proposition for the cultivator to convey the cane to the mills—under such conditions the Magistrate was permitted to give such permission for the manufacture of *gur*. It was my friend who did not understand me. I understood the question very well.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether simultaneously with the prohibition order imposed upon cane-growers *cum gur*-growers any corresponding order was passed upon the owners of the sugar mills compelling them to purchase any stock that may be made available to them?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: It was on the definite understanding that the mills will be obliged to purchase any cane which is offered to either a receiving centre or mill gate. If they do not purchase it, they will have to pay the full compensation for the cane offered.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps did Government take to guarantee such purchases when cane was offered for sale?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I will take time to explain this. Government had undertaken to pay a subsidy of four annas to enable the mills to pay a price of Re. 1 to the cultivator and that was a sufficient guarantee for the Government to see that the mills did purchase the cane.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is aware that there have been many cases in which these agriculturists have carried canes to the mill stations, but they were not purchased as a result of which they were forced to sell them at the very self-same mills at a much lower price?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: So far we have not received any complaint from anywhere.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to the question regarding North Bengal sugarcane if it is a fact that at the present moment sugarcane produced in North Bengal is not being crushed by the mills in North Bengal although offered to those mills?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I am not aware of that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that sugarcane of North Bengal has now got to be transported as far as to Darsana to be crushed by the Darsana Mill?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps Government took or what measures Government contemplated to ensure that sugarcane produced in respective areas would be actually taken by the mills situated within those areas?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: We were given a definite assurance that sugarcane will be taken by the respective sugar mills. There was no reason to doubt that assurance.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there was any agreement in writing with the sugar mill-owners?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: No.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government took any steps to make it known to the cane-growers that such an understanding was arrived at between the mill-owners and the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Speaking from memory I may say that the leaflets did mention that the cane offered to these receiving centres would be taken up by the mills.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that certain mills refused to accept sugarcane offered to them on the ground that the quality of sugarcane was not up to their expectation?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I have not received any such complaint.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of making an enquiry into the statement that by mutual arrangement the Darsana Sugar Mill is now crushing sugarcane produced as far as in Rajshahi and a part of Bogra district?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I do not see how it militates against the Government order as long as cane offered is being taken up by any of the mills.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the net result of such an order is that a great panic has been created in the area around ten miles of the mills, so that there may not be sufficient cane-growers in future?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I do not apprehend such a contingency.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us any idea as to whether the order has had its desired effect namely any increased crushing of sugarcane is actually taking place on the basis of last year's crushing or the year previous to that in the present year?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: It is too early to say that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that three mills at least in Bengal could not operate to the extent that they normally did in the past and one mill had actually not opened at all this time?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Even if it is so, it had nothing to do with the Government's prohibition order.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Prospect of Jailors.

72. Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that—

(*i*) the Jailors are now recognised as gazetted officers; and

(*ii*) their transfers, leave, etc., are being regularly gazetted?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Superintendents of Jails are being recruited from retired Police Officers in preference to the claims of experienced Jailors?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government propose to take to create more openings for the educationally and otherwise qualified and deserving Jailors to bring the service in equal lines with the sister Police Department as to pay and prospects?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*)(*i*) Yes, except for purposes of audit.

(*ii*) Their appointment, promotion, posting and leave are notified in the *Calcutta Gazette*.

(*b*) No, except in one case for one year only, when no suitable officer was available in the Jail Department.

(*c*) The post of Superintendents of District Jails and Borstal School, Bankura, and of Deputy Superintendents of Central Jails are now open to suitable Jailors by promotion.

Muslim prayer room in the Court building of Chittagong.

73. Khan Bahadur HAJI BADI AHMED CHOUDHURY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) (1) the capacity, and (2) accommodation of the prayer room allotted for the Muslim officers, employees of the Government and that of the public litigants in the Court buildings, Chittagong;

(*ii*) when the room was allotted for the purpose;

(*iii*) the percentage and the number of Muslim employees there;

(*iv*) the percentage of the Muslim employees there for the present; and

(*v*) whether any arrangement has been made to protect the *Musallis* from sun and rain during Jumma prayer?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*v*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government contemplate making any arrangement for the purpose?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the public is permitted to raise subscriptions and erect a temporary shed there?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prosanna Pain): (*a*)(*i*) (1) $22\frac{1}{2}' \times 9'$; (2) 20 persons at a time.

(*ii*) Over 35 years ago.

(*iii*) Not known.

(*iv*) 281 Muslim employees; 44 per cent.

(*v*) Many of the Muslim employees go to Jumma Mosque to say their Jumma prayer. Those who do not go there make their own arrangements by putting up a *shamiana* on the ground in front of the prayer room on Jumma days.

(*b*) In view of the answer to (*a*) (*v*), the question does not arise.

(*c*) Government cannot permit the erection of a temporary shed or a structure in a Court compound or on Government land by the public or by one class of the public at their cost for religious purposes. But if the Muslim employees in the Court building require larger accommodation of space than what has been allowed to them, they may move the local authority in the matter, who will accommodate them as far as practicable.

There is also a number of mosques within 5 minutes' walk from the Court hill.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: In view of the fact that there are 281 Muslim employees, but the accommodation is only for 20 persons at a time will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government find it necessary to provide facilities for other Muslim employees at Chittagong?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: There are several mosques within 5 minutes' walk from the court. They can go there and say their prayer.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: So far as *Jumma* prayer is concerned no time is allowed to them. Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Muslim employees find it difficult to attend these mosques, because no time is allowed to them for prayer?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Nowadays officers are allowed about one hour's time to say their prayer.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: In view of the fact that before the Muslim employees offer their prayer they have to perform ablution which will take time and also because of the fact that going to mosque and coming back will take 10 minutes, does the Government consider it desirable to afford facilities for offering prayer to all the employees?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: The question is as regards extension of time. Government may consider it when it will come before them for consideration.

Khan Bahadur HAJI BADI AHMED CHOUDHURY: Sir, answer (*c*)তে যা বলা হয়েছে—সে সম্বন্ধে আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করছি—সেটা Court buildings থেকে তিন মাইল দূরে, একথা গভর্ণমেণ্ট স্বীকার করবেন কি না?

(No answer.)

Khan Bahadur HAJI BADI AHMED CHOUDHURY: Sir, Court buildings থেকে মসজিদে যেতে হলে যে রাস্তা দিয়া নেমে আসতে হয়—সেই নেমে আসাতেই এক

মাইল হয়—এ অবস্থাটা গভর্ণমেণ্ট স্বীকার করবেন কি? Sir, আমার প্রশ্নের কোন উত্তর পাচ্ছি না।

Mr. SPEAKER: সেখানকার অবস্থা বলছেন আপনি, তাতে বরং খবরই দেওয়া হচ্ছে, আপনার প্রশ্নটা বলুন।

Khan Bahadur HAJI BADI AHMED CHOUDHURY: Court buildingsএর পশ্চিমের কামরায় কতকগুলি খালি প্যাকেটের বাক্স পড়ে আছে—সেগুলি সরাতে আপত্তি কি?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: মাননীয় সদস্য মহোদয় ১৯৩৫ সালে সন্তুষ্ট হয়ে এই প্রশ্ন প্রত্যাহার করেছিলেন এখনও তাহলে স্থানীয় ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটকে জানালে তিনিই ভাল রকম ব্যবস্থা করবেন।

Khan Bahadur HAJI BADI AHMED CHOUDHURY: আপনি কি বল্লেন? আপনার কথা আমি কিছু বুঝিতেছি না।

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: আপনার কথাও আমি বুঝিতেছি না (laughter.)

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

27—Administration of Justice.

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Sir, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 80,99,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice".

Maulvi AZHAR ALI: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 80,99,000 under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100.

My purpose in moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the Government policy in appointing Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors.

Sir, in every appointment by Government there is some policy and there is also some policy about the retirement whether on completion of certain age or termination of certain period, but in the appointment of Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors we find that Government have got no policy, (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: There is only one policy, patronage) save and except that one policy, namely, patronage. In certain districts the retirement of Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors is long over due. In some places these gentlemen are practically invalid and the Government work is suffering very much both in civil and criminal administration. As for example, the Rajshahi Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor have not yet retired, and there are recommendations before the Government for the appointment of a new set of pleaders but we do not understand why the Government have kept the case pending for years. The reason known to us is this: that they cannot find suitable men who will support them directly and indirectly. There were candidates both from Rajshahi and outside. Previously there was a clamour that the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division preferred to have a man from among the local Bar, but unfortunately, that person, most probably, did not suit the Government and the recommendation was not accepted. Subsequently, some candidates were nominated by the District Judge and the District Magistrate of Pabna. The Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division sent their names too. We were told that those persons recommended by the District Judge and the District Magistrate

were quite competent and some of them had good practice. They were not taken for the same reason that they were not supporters of the League. We do not know whether they are supporters of the League or not but we know that they are good pleaders and that if they are appointed they will do justice to their cases and the appointments given to them. At Malda, we understand that the Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor is nearing 75 or more. There is yet no arrangement made for retiring him and no appointment has yet been made for this district. We do not understand what policy the Government have been following or what they will follow hereafter in appointing these Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors. Very soon the place of Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor at Pabna will be vacant and we do not know whether Government will extend the term of office of the present incumbent or appoint a new man or they are going to keep the case pending for ever like the case of Rajshahi. There are competent men at the Pabna Bar but we doubt whether they will be at all taken for they cannot satisfy the Ministers of the present Cabinet. Some of them, we understand, approached the Hon'ble Judicial Minister but we are sorry to learn that he expressed the opinion that he is practically handicapped in the Cabinet and that his voice will be of no use. He is impotent as well. We would like to know from the Hon'ble Judicial Minister whether those appointments will be made by the Hon'ble High Court or the Legal Remembrancer or the Cabinet. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Or the Chief Whip.) The policy should be enunciated. Who is the master of the situation? Will these appointments be made by the party mandate or by the order of the Chief Whip or the Chief Minister? The Hon'ble Judicial Minister is requested to let this House know clearly whether they are going to fill up these vacancies in the near future and to do justice to the public as well as Government cases.

With these few words I beg to commend my motion to the acceptance of the House

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 80,99,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100. In moving this motion, Sir, I want to raise a discussion about the desirability of taking away all criminal cases including appeals and revenue cases including appeals from the Magistrates and Collectors and making them over to Munsifs and Judges and Subordinate Judges till normal conditions reappear after termination of war.

Sir, although separation of the Judiciary from the wheels of the Executive is an old cry amounting almost to a cry in the wilderness still the realisation of this truth by the sages of old has not only retained its ancient wisdom but has acquired new values in the present context of things and its acceptance as a fundamental article of social system looks irresistible today.

With the growth of democracy the administrative machinery as we ordinarily understand it namely the magistracy and the collectorate with their numerous adjuncts and auxiliaries are being increasingly linked up with the day to day life and problems of the people and for good and for evil the various departments have to partake of the conflicts of interest and ideologies in all their ramifications. Putting it bluntly the executive has got—as necessarily it has to be mixed up with the affairs of the ordinary man; and the more Government have to be responsive the larger and the

more numerous will be the occasion and the necessity for such mixing up. Party Government can never rid itself of its amenability of influences and the executive being the only organ of the Government in its administrative functioning it must have of necessity to play the role of an advocate and of a partisan highly interested.

This is revealed in three marked ways, namely, when (1) the executive is the judge and the prosecutor, (2) the executive is the judge and the accused, and (3) the executive is the judge and the prosecutor and the accused. Let me give concrete examples.

In the first place the judge and the prosecutor in one becomes a veritable persecutor.

(1) A particular Subdivisional Officer in a particular subdivision of a particular district wanted the headmaster of a particular school to include in the membership of the managing committee himself and such other members as might extend the sphere of influence of the Muslim League party but the silly headmaster who was more interested in the school which he had founded than in anything else was not too eager to accommodate the Subdivisional Officer so readily and in course of a few days the offended Subdivisional Officer in his Hitlerian vanity instituted and caused to be instituted several criminal cases in his own court against the unfortunate headmaster who instead of being placed on a regular trial because there was neither case nor evidence was subjected to endless harassments in the shape of daily detention in court, issue of non-bailable warrants, refusal of copies, terrorising lawyers, etc.

(2) The same Subdivisional Officer put into jail *hajat* a gentleman who was acting as a spokesman of a particular community in a matter which vitally concerned that particular community and this because the *Hakim* thought that the gentleman was insolent. When the District Magistrate called for records and asked for explanation on a transfer application being made before him on the ground that copies were not being granted the Subdivisional Officer reported that there was no such case pending before him.

(3) Another Subdivisional Officer went to a village for collecting war funds and an old and highly respectable villager did not agree to the quota fixed for him and the Subdivisional Officer suddenly discovered that the wall of his house was new and that he must have built it with his own bricks without the permission of the Magistracy. He was peremptorily taken into custody and the old man despite his blindness and old age and despite his relations offering a cart for the journey was marched twenty miles on foot under handcuff, bail was refused in the village and in court till he agreed to plead guilty. A heavy amount was realised from him towards war fund and the Subdivisional Officer as the judge vindicated the wrath and indignation of the Subdivisional Officer as the administrative head of the subdivision.

Coming to the second class, the consequences of a combined judiciary and executive are still more appalling when the limbs of the executive stand in the position of the accused. It is common knowledge that ever since the price control came into existence and after that the Department of Civil Supplies following in the wake of famine condition—the agents and contractors of the Government and officers and clerks of the public administration became gradually involved in large numbers in what is by this time

universally known as colossal corruption. Numerous complaints on specific instances of big and small dishonesty began to pour in from all responsible quarters including members of the Legislature, but in 999 out of a thousand the magistracy as the judge turned a deaf ear to the complaints against the magistracy as the accused.

(1) A big hoarder of foodgrains was placed in charge of anti-hoarding in a whole subdivision. He rounded up petty stockists including small *mutwalis* of petty wakf estates, coarced them to sell their stocks at dictated low price, but when attention of the authorities was drawn to the several thousand maunds of foodgrains in custody of the same big man, well, nothing could be done since he was the organ of the executive for the very valuable anti-hoarding drive, and I am posted with information that this gentleman has been recommended King's Honours.

(2) An agent for distributing paddy seeds for "Grow More Food" campaign in an afflicted area colluded with the officer in charge for such distribution and advanced cash and took receipt for paddy. On a complaint made by me the District Magistrate was good enough to say that the matter would receive his consideration but he had not the courage nor the fairness to proceed judicially forthwith.

(3) A clerk of the collectorate detected the clandestine removal of foodstuff from the house of a supply officer who is a Magistrate under cover of night and the whole neighbourhood assembled and witnessed the matter and a complaint was made at the thana. The Subdivisional Officer made a private executive enquiry in spite of the protest that he was indirectly involved and the case was dropped and the poor clerk received admonition that he was an agitator.

(4) When two supply officers, both of them Magistrates, were caught as having dishonestly and surreptitiously disposed of large quantities of foodgrains under fictitious permits and defalcated big quantities of quinine on forged challans and cases were started the Subdivisional Officer who was also in charge of the department concerned passed a judicial order that no case lies. Constitution taught that King can do no wrong and the executive judge holds that an administrator cannot commit any offence——.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: On a point of order, Sir. I submit the honourable member is referring to matters which are *sub judice*.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am a practising lawyer and I am more competent to decide what is *sub judice* and what not. What I have been saying has nothing to do with *sub judice* cases.

Ever since Government became the supplying and trading agent black market opened its head office in Government offices and money began to pass like honest cigarettes through hands of officers and clerks and all complaints met with insult and refusal and justice loitered lonely in the cold shade of neglect and ignominy.

If an independent judiciary were available for taking up and entertaining such cases I have no doubt that in course of the last twelve months or so a large number of Magistrates and their subordinates would have

become His Majesty's guests in the numerous prisons of the province, and the Majesty of Law would have been amply vindicated and justice saved from slaughter.

There is a third class of cases in which the executive is the judge, the prosecutor and the accused rolled into one compost of a peculiar kind, the like of which it is not possible for civilisation to comprehend. I am illustrating from happenings of my district again.

Several police officers have been charged with extortion of money on various pretexts and threats from innocent villagers. It took several months to have an executive enquiry made and the accused were given unusual time and latitude for influencing and gaining over the victims and at long last there was no way out of summoning the officers who were called upon to meet accusations involving non-bailable offences of a very serious nature. The complainants are not allowed to prosecute through their own lawyers and the police inspector is to be in charge of the prosecution and the Police Magistrate is to hold the trial and the police officers are to take their trial. In a case like this against any private individual however high might his position be the Crown would insist upon the accused remaining in custody lest evidence be tampered with, but here the accused are not only allowed to remain at large, they are even allowed to continue in their station where they can exercise their power and influence in such a way as to make the case against them fail for want of evidence. On hearing dates the witnesses for the prosecution have to appear in the first instance at the Court Police Office where their testimony is tested and the accused are already there carrying on friendly chat with the Police Prosecutor who looks more a patron of the accused than an ally of the complainant. Can anybody urge that all this is conducive to a fair trial?

Apart from all this, from the practical consideration of expediency and efficiency it is desirable that the over-worked Magistrates are relieved of the burden of case work. They are already over head and ears in voluminous indoor and outdoor work. The increasing pressure of public opinion and administrative demands are daily adding new burden over their shoulders, and they are so spent up that they have neither time nor energy for doing case work. They have to take up cases grudgingly at the fag end of the day when the world looks boring to a tired mind, and the result is obvious. Delay and dilatoriness is rampant. Ordinary cases are taking six to twelve months on an average. Appellate Magistrates hear appeals and then forget the case in three months and then deliver judgment in haste on the eve of transfer from the station. The whole thing has become a scandal. Appointment of a few lawyer Magistrates may be helpful in relieving the congestion, but this in itself cannot restore confidence and efficiency which have been damaged completely.

Munsifs and Judges are not infallible and they also frequently commit errors in their judgment, but on the whole people do not fear that there will be devastating failure of justice. Somehow or other one has more faith in this side of the judiciary and the High Court has succeeded in toning up confidence in the non-executive judiciary. Munsifs as Magistrates have also proved a success. It is therefore easy and proper to place all case work under the Judge and the High Court so that people might begin to feel that justice is being sought to be administered.

Liberate the executives for exclusively applying their energies to the wheel of constructive work in the midst of the people in distress, and place judiciary on a footing from which not as a hand-maid of vested interests but in its native splendour free from administrative cares and worries it will inspire freedom and confidence.

Maulvi IDRIS AHMED MIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 80,99,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the inability of the Government to remove the present Government Pleader of Malda who tried to legalise the most atrocious conduct and illegal action of the teaching staff of the Adina Fazlul Huq College in trying to remove it to Malda town.

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়! আমরা পুকুর চুরির কথা শুনেছি কিন্তু বাস্তবিক যে একটা কলেজ চুরি হয়ে যেতে পারে এ ধারণা আমাদের ছিল না। মালদহে তাই হয়েছে। বিচার বিভাগ বিচার পাবার জন্য, বিচার দেবার জন্য ও সুবিচারের সাহায্য করবার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট নিযুক্ত করেছেন। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় সুবিচার পাওয়া দূরের কথা আদিনা ফজলুল হক কলেজ তার বর্ত্তমান স্থান হতে মালদহ সহরে লইয়া যাবার জন্য যে চোর-ডাকাতের দল গঠিত হয়েছিল তাদের নেতা হয়েছিলেন মালদহের গভর্ণমেণ্ট উকিল স্বয়ং নিজে। সকলেরই জানা আছে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের মঞ্জুরী না পেলে কলেজ খোলা যায় না, কিন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্টের বেলায় ৭ খুন মাফ। তিনি কলেজের শিক্ষিত মিরজাফর প্রিন্সিপ্যাল সানাউল্লার ও অন্যান্য প্রফেসারদের ঘৃণিত কাজ মনপ্রাণ দিয়া সমর্থন করেন। এই সানাউল্লা মালদহ ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট বোর্ডের নির্ব্বাচন ব্যাপারে আমার উপর অসন্তুষ্ট দলের সহিত ষড়যন্ত্র করে জন কয়েক ছাত্র ও শিক্ষকদের নিয়ে মালদহ সহরে যাইয়া বাসের অযোগ্য বিবেচনায় পরিত্যক্ত আশুতোষ চৌধুরী মহাশয়ের ঘরে আশ্রয় লয়, তখন গভর্ণমেণ্টের উকিল তাহাদের সাহায্য করিতে লাগিলেন। এঁদের কাজ কত ঘৃণিত ও বেআইনি তা ইউনিভারসিটির কলেজ ইনস্পেক্টরের রিপোর্ট হইতে শুনুন।

The case of Fazlul Huq College, Adina, presents a very complicated and an unprecedented state of affairs. The college was functioning for the last three sessions at Dadanchak but all on a sudden the Principal, the Professors and about 25 students came over to Malda town on the 22nd of July, 1943, and proclaimed themselves as the Fazlul Huq College, Adina, and gave out that from the 23rd July it would function at Malda town and not at Dadanchak. The Secretary of the Governing Body—the founder of the college Mr. Idris Ahmed, who actually met the Principal at Dadanchak on the 2nd of July, was never taken into confidence and for the matter of that no member of the Governing Body was cognisant even of the proposed step. It is difficult to find language strong enough to condemn the procedure followed and the action of the Principal and the Professors. The public of Malda town, however, lent their moral support to this clandestine removal of the college from Dadanchak and the delinquent teachers found themselves in an atmosphere at once friendly and helpful.

চুরি-করা কলেজকে মালদহ সহরে কায়েম করতে হবে এই তার ওকালতি। হবে না কেন, তিনি মালদহ কলেজ কমিটির Secretary. আমার পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী বক্তা বলেছেন, মালদহের গভর্ণমেণ্ট উকিলের বয়স ৭২এর অধিক সুতরাং বাহাদুরে হবার পুরা উপসর্গ সবই বর্ত্তমান। এতবড় বেআইনি কাজ করা সত্ত্বেও তিনি গভর্ণমেণ্ট পক্ষের উকিল এবং গঙ্গায় না যাওয়া

পর্য্যন্ত তাঁহার কায়েমী স্বত্ব বজায় রাখিবার জন্য চেষ্টা করবেন। কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে ১,৮০০ হাই স্কুলের মধ্যে মাত্র ৩০টি হাই স্কুল এবং ৯১টি কলেজের মধ্যে মাত্র ৪টি কলেজ মুসলমান পরিচালিত। ৪ বৎসর অক্লান্ত পরিশ্রমে আমি এই কলেজ অনেক দূর এগিয়ে নিয়েছিলাম। কলেজের ৩ শত বিঘা জমিতে রেশম ও লাহা আবাদ ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা প্রবর্ত্তনের জন্যই এই কলেজ স্থাপন করা হয়। গভর্ণমেণ্ট ও ইউনিভারসিটি এই ব্যবস্থা সাদরে গ্রহণ করেন। এ সম্বন্ধে কলেজ ইনস্পেক্টর মহোদয় বলিয়াছেন:—

The promoters of the proposed college, however, are not contemplating the starting of an ordinary I. A. college on conventional lines. They are convinced that "the divorce between learning and manual work and the consequent loss on the one hand of the sense of dignity of labour and on the other hand of interest in and vital touch with the traditional arts and crafts of the country" lies at the root of the present unhappy state of the educational system obtaining in the country——

Mr. SPEAKER: আপনি আদিনা কলেজ সম্বন্ধে বলুন।

Maulvi IDRIS AHMED MIA: I leave it, Sir.

সকলেই বেশ ভাল বুঝতে পারছেন যে এইরূপ কলেজ মালদহ সহরে চলতে পারে না। কেননা ঐ পরিমাণ জমি সহরে কেহ দিতে রাজী নয়। তারপর মালদহ সহর বড়ই ম্যালেরিয়াপূর্ণ স্থান। মশা-মাছির বড়ই উপদ্রব। ছোট সহর তাতেই সিনেমা আর সহরের আর যে সব দোষ থাকে তাও পুরা মাত্রায় বর্ত্তমান। সুতরাং আমরা ইউনিভারসিটি ও গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে উদ্দেশ্য লইয়া এই কলেজ স্থাপন করি তা সফল করতে হোলে কলেজ কোন মতেই মালদহ সহরে উঠাইয়া লইয়া যাওয়া যায় না। গভর্ণমেণ্ট উকিলের এই রকম অন্যায় করার অধিকার ছিল না। আইনতঃ ধর্ম্মতঃ কোন রকমেই এই রকম ব্যবস্থা করা উচিত ছিল না। কলেজ, স্কুল মুসলমান সমাজের নাই বললেই চলে। এই অবস্থায় গরীব ছেলেদের শিক্ষার জন্য প্রতিষ্ঠিত কলেজ লয়ে ছিনিমিনি কেন খেলছিলেন তা মোটেই বোঝা যায় না। যাহা হউক এরূপ জাল, জুয়াচুরি ও চক্রান্ত করা সত্ত্বেও এবার প্রায় ৪০টি ছেলে ঐ কলেজ হোতে আই, এ, পরীক্ষা দিয়েছে কিন্তু ক্ষতিও হয়েছে যথেষ্ট। আমার শেষ কথা গভর্ণমেণ্টের উকিল যেরূপ বেআইনি কাজে সহায়তা করেছেন তাহার বিশেষ তদন্ত করিয়া ইহার যথোচিত ব্যবস্থা করিবেন।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 80,99,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100 in order to raise a discussion about the failure of the High Court and some other courts in securing justice to the people in a class of cases.

Sir, I would very much like, while we are debating this important subject, that the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Home Affaris, who is also the Chief Minister, and particularly the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Civil Supplies, would be present so that they themselves might have a direct idea of the complaint entertained by members, but, Sir, I am disappointed in that expectation, but I do hope that our clean Minister of Justice, who has both his lower chamber and upper chamber clean, will keep at least sufficient notes to enable his colleagues to do proper justice to the points raised during today's debate.

Sir, on a previous occasion I had submitted how the High Court of this province had degenerated into an executive machinery and justice was being trampled without any proper regard. Thereafter, Sir, I listened to the

Hon'ble Minister in charge of the department who said that we are now living under British justice and surely when British people are the judges we cannot expect anything going wrong in his estimation. Therefore, Sir, I have to refrain from repeating those arguments again. Today I would propose to take up two or three other classes of complaints.

In the first place, we find that there is a great trumpeting now going on from one end of the country to the other about the necessity of stopping black-marketing and profiteering. And there was also a great furore created from all sections of this House, particularly from the European party, that they must lynch the persons responsible for such anti-social activities. But, Sir, when it comes actually to finding out the victims, the real culprits, the big fishes somehow manage to go out of the net and it is only the humble small fry that somehow get caught when they were more or less attempting to evade certain technical rules of Government. The reports of various courts both in the city of Calcutta and outside will show that the so-called Defence of India Rules cases instituted to stop profiteering and black-marketing are nothing more than mere cases for infringement of technical rules. Seventy-five to 80 per cent. of these cases involve petty offences and at most account for a loss to the community of a few annas or a few rupees. Hundreds, thousands and lakhs of rupees are being earned by the real black-marketers and profiteers who go absolutely unattended to and neither the Executive is prepared to catch them up, nor is the judiciary in a position to take them to task.

I had recently a few such cases brought to our notice and I was surprised to find that the Hon'ble High Court went so much out of their way as to address letters and even publicly allowed some of their observations to be published in the Press which amounted to nothing short of a mean interference with the course of justice, about the maintenance of which the present Chief Justice in connection with another High Court case waxed elequent.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do not bring in the Chief Justice. Only mention the High Court.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All right, Sir. Certain Judges of the High Court in connection with another case made certain queries——

Mr. SPEAKER: Do not reflect on the conduct of High Court Judges. Better say High Court.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Very well, Sir. The High Court made such observations and they were allowed to be published in the Press. It is found that the entire judicial system has become paralysed because of such observations. The Magistracy wants to increase the number of prosecutions and they want also to show, for purposes of publicity by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Publicity Department, increased number of cases of prosecution under the Defence of India Rules and convictions. What really the offence was and what was the nature of the conviction is kept back from the public only to create impressions. Impressions are thus being created. On the other hand disposal of cases of the nature of Manindranath Das murder, which my esteemed friend Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta drew attention to through a question a few days ago, remain

still the prerogative of British Jury and on the recommendation of such a British Jury a man who was actually caught red-handed murdering another innocent villager was let off. Government would not even go on appeal against such an order, because the accused was a British member of a particular class of Government service.

The other class of cases where justice cannot be obtained are cases of persons who are employed under the Government, particularly the Police. My esteemed friend Mr. Sasanka Sanyal has already given a long list of such cases and made a brilliant appeal to the House to separate the Executive from the Judiciary. I will only lend support to his observations by quoting one more case, —the case in which an arrogant Superintendent of Police in a mufassal district was accused of a heinous crime of having indulged in unprovoked assault not merely on a respectable citizen but a youngman when he was bleeding and his wounds were being attended to in his house. I am emboldened today to refer to that case, because due to the Government's funny methods that case is now no longer *sub judice*. Mr. Pollard who was the accused in this case was Superintendent of Police, Berhampur, and it was in the first week of April, 1943, that he indulged in this game of assault. Thereafter a case was duly instituted in the local court. Months went on. The Magistrate did not either have time or something else happened and the prosecution could not go on from day to day. After some months in that position, somehow or other the Hon'ble High Court found it necessary to order that case to be transferred to Alipore for trial here. And curiously enough the Government of Sir Nazimuddin in their wisdom also, about the same time, thought that here was an occasion for chastising Mr. Pollard and so they transferred Mr. Pollard from Berhampur. Where? To Alipore, and here at Alipore Mr. Pollard was being provided with Government money for conducting and continuing his case. At a subsequent stage it was discovered that on account of certain observations again of the High Court the sanction of Government was necessary. That sanction was duly applied for, and in spite of the fact that the High Court had given a mild hint that Government should in such cases give necessary sanction, the sanction has not come even up till now. The result has been that the complainant had to come day in and day out from time to time from Berhampur to Alipore and incur expenses and only to be told that the case cannot go on. Ultimately the Magistrate in his wisdom thought that he should discharge the accused at this stage. Mr. Pollard is now a free man. As an accused he was also enjoying leave from Government not only once, not only twice but from time to time he represented to Government, we presume, that certain very important things required his absence and he was given three months' leave. And where did he go during the leave? He went to Murshidabad and stayed with one European friend of his and he had been doing *tadbir* for all his nefarious cases going on. The man who was transferred out of Berhampur, was again found loitering about in Berhampur and at one stage when there was some doubt whether the Magistrate could discharge the accused or not, he approached certain person with a proposal that this case might be compromised as against another false case that he and his henchmen had instituted against some youngmen. The other case has been heard and yet the whole thing has been hanging on for some weeks. The Magistrate could not or did not give his judgment for

several weeks. Judgment was not delivered—it was hanging—probably because the superior wisdom of higher authorities——

Mr. SPEAKER: That case is pending. Do not mention it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am not referring to the case. I only said that judgment is pending and for weeks past the judgment is not being delivered. It is a wonder why such a thing should be allowed to go on.

The third class of cases where justice cannot be obtained are cases in which Government party members or members who promised to give support to the Government and are likely to help them in their position and power are involved. There have been numerous cases, and one interesting case is that at Barisal—I would not mention the case because it is still *sub judice* —where justice cannot be done because certain members of the Assembly are involved who are still promising support to Government.

Sir, I submit that the entire judiciary of this province has gone thoroughly debased and in order to lift it out of the present morass what is needed is the bold step of separating the Judiciary from the Executive. We had some respect for the rule of law and if law is in this way trampled upon we do not know where we shall be landed and I would not welcome the day when we shall have to challenge the authority and justice and fairmindedness of all judicial officers beginning from the highest man in authority in the Judicial Service of this province who has in our opinion been more or less the handmaid of the Executive.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Sir, the first motion moved by my friend Maulvi Azhar Ali, is to raise a discussion about the Government policy in appointing Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors.

The other day there was a question put by my friend, Mr. Ashutosh Lahiri about the percentage of Hindu and Muslim Public Prosecutors. He probably thought that there were more Muslim Public Prosecutors but it was found to his utter surprise that so far as Muslims were concerned it was much below the number contemplated under the Communal Ratio Service Rules. I would urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to see that so far as the appointments of Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors are concerned communal quota is maintained.

There is another point. There are certain Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors who are allowed to continue even after they have attained 60 years. In Government service beyond 55 years of age or after 30 years of service nobody is allowed to continue but with respect to Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors they are allowed to continue even after they have attained the age of 60 and one, two or three extensions are also being granted without finding out suitable men for appointment either as Government Pleaders or Public Prosecutors.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The same thing happens in the A.R.P., Civil Supplies, etc.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: They are not relevant. We will make our observations when the appropriate occasion comes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: When it suits you it is all right.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Now, coming to the appointment of Honorary Magistrates, we find that there are suitable candidates both in

Muslim and Scheduled Caste communities. No attention is paid to the appointment of Honorary Magistrates either from Muslims or from Scheduled Caste candidates.

So far as the appointments of District and Subordinate Judges are concerned there are at present 34 District Judges of which there are only about 4 or 5 Muslims. They can legitimately claim under the Communal Ratio Rules 17 posts. There are only 4 or 5. I would urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to see that this discrepancy is dispensed with. So far as Subordinate Judges are concerned, the same story is repeated there. So far as the District Judges are concerned, out of 10 District Judges promoted from the rank of Subordinate Judges there is only one Muslim, and there are 9 from the Caste Hindus. There is none from the Scheduled Caste. So far as the other cadres are concerned, there also the same story is repeated. I would urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to see that these wrongs righted within a very short period.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, nobody will differ from the observation of the speakers opposite that there should be a clear division between the Judiciary and the Executive. That has been or that used to be the hardy annual in the old Congress and the old Muslim League resolutions, but so long as the separation is not made and the Government of India is carried on under the traditions of the Indian Civil Service, I think that we shall have to carry on as best as we can. Where I wish to join issue with the speakers opposite is that they cannot hold the whole magisterial and the whole judicial services as corrupt. I am sure that when they think over the subject more carefully they will realize that there must be some good men among these Magistrates and Judges who carry on their duties in an honourable way. I sometimes feel that if we run down our own brothers who hold the majority of posts in those departments we demean ourselves in the eyes of those who are not very sympathetic towards us. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is why you are shielding corruption!) In my view this is not the right way of tackling the problem. That mistakes do occur, that there are defects which we must remove, I admit, but to get up and say that their judgments are influenced by official decisions and official instructions is not only improper but unkind and unjust (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All truths are not palatable.) As regards the improvement of our judicial system, we shall do our best but to say in the same breath that the Judiciary and the Executive should be separated and then to run down the High Court is, I do not think, in the best interests of the service. They are breaking their own argument. I again repeat that the separation of the two functions of Government is very necessary, but not on the arguments presented by members opposite. I hope in future they will mend their way and not run down our own brothers in the Judicial Service or any other service of the country (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The Chief Justice is not our brother) because our brothers in these services, whether they are 3rd class Magistrates or District Judges or even High Court Judges, try to do their best according to their light to serve the interests of the litigants as well as the general public.

Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Sir, in rising to speak a few words on the Judicial Budget I should begin by offering my congratulations

to the Hon'ble Judicial Minister for reserving a few appointments for the members of the Scheduled Castes. I would only remind him that he would now be good enough to take his decision at an early date so that those candidates may no longer remain in suspense. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Not before the Assembly session is over!) In coming to his own conclusion I would also appeal that he will not as in the past or in the present introduce others as members of the Scheduled Castes for making these appointments from among the candidates. He will be good enough to keep to the list which is settled by His Majesty's Government in finding out the true members of this community. Now, Sir, coming to the budget itself and the few cut motions discussed on the floor of the House I can well appreciate the difficulties of my honourable friend, Dr. Sanyal, for he has never been a member of the legal profession, but I do not really understand the grievances of my honourable friend, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal, who claims to be and is a member of the legal profession and as such he should have been able to see to these things as to how justice is administered in any court of law. You can really take a man to task for what he is able to do but has not done, but you cannot take one to task for what one is not able to do and has not done it.

Now, Sir, so far as the administration of justice in this province is cincerned, it is a patent fact that it is not certainly for the Government of Bengal as it is functioning today to be responsible for all the different things that are happening in the courts of law in different places. It is indeed true that in the dispensation of justice you must be able through your courts to inspire confidence in public minds, but before you are able to do so you must also ensure that you have got the right type of men at the helm of affairs who are called upon to administer justice in this country. Therefore, Sir, we are brought back to the elementary question as to whether the Government of Bengal can be said to be responsible for making appointment of all these judicial officers. There are various agencies by which these appointments are made. If we only take the simplest case of those who are called upon to administer civil justice, my point will be a bit clear. Till the Government of India Act, 1935, came into operation all these appointments were practically made by the High Court acting under the Civil Courts Act of 1882: the lowest rung, namely, the Munsif's cadre, is entirely within their province. The High Court appointed Munsifs and from amongst the Munsifs promotion to the next higher cadre, namely, the Subordinate Judges, has been made and is still made by the High Court.

Now, Sir, so far as the movement of these officers from one place to another is concerned, it is still within the purview of the Hon'ble High Court, and as was explained by the Hon'ble Minister in charge, Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur, when presenting his first Budget in August, 1937, and his second Budget in March, 1938, when the first Ministry was functioning, he pointed out to the House that the High Court has got an autonomy though the province of Bengal has been given another autonomy. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: *Imperium im imperio.*) Therefore, Sir, it was difficult for one provincial autonomy to control another autonomy which was perfectly independent of the executive government to administer their own affairs. So far as the District Judges are concerned, we know they are chosen from out of the senior members of the Indian

Civil Service or out of the senior Subordinate Judges who are promoted to that cadre on the recommendation of the High Court and accepted by the Government of Bengal. The Federal Public Service Commission is also consulted. That being the position, Sir, it is difficult for one to appreciate the grievances that my friend Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal or Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal has made about the way in which these officers are functioning in the interior. So far as the High Court is concerned, they are above all criticism by this House, and we know that before the Government of India Act, 1935, came into operation the High Court Judges were appointed by His Majesty's Government at the instance of the Governor-General and the Provincial Government had also some say. But after the Government of India Act, 1935, came into operation, the Provincial Government have got no say in the matter. Even when acting appointments have to be made, they are made on the recommendation of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice when the Governor of the province is consulted. That being the position, it cannot really be said that the Judicial Department of the Government of Bengal have not been doing what they have got the power to do. I feel that the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the department will certainly be able to convince the House that he cannot be held responsible for this sort of things. We have always known that the Hon'ble Nawab Musharuff Hossain has never been criticised as Minister in charge of the Judicial Department, from this point of view. All that has been said has been that this Budget should be allowed to go through, with the remark that more amount should be added so that the Nawab Saheb may be able to meet the wishes of the members of this House.

With these words, Sir, I offer my congratulation to the Hon'ble Minister for getting a larger amount than what was done previously.

Dr. SANAULLAH: Sir, on behalf of the Ulema party I wish to make a few observations and suggestions. First of all, I agree with my esteemed friend, Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, that there are limitations under the Government of India Act regarding the judiciary, but even within those limitations it should be the special duty of the Government of the day and of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the department to appoint the right type of men as Public Prosecutors and Government Pleaders as suggested by Mr. Mullick, because on that really depends the proper administration of justice. Sir, it is a well-kown fact that Public Prosecutors demand fees in addition to what they are entitled to get from Government, from the parties concerned. This is nothing but oppression on the part of those who are meant to render help to the administration of proper justice. I am told that in sessions cases after a day's hard labour they do not feel happy to go back to their homes empty-handed. And on that plea they demand additional fees from the parties. I would therefore suggest that Public Prosecutors and Government Pleaders should be paid their fees daily by way of encouragement. Mr. Mullick has suggested that the right type of men should be selected. In this connection, Sir, I would enquire what is the right type of men wanted. One class of men will say that this is the right type of men and another class will say that quite the reverse type is the right type. Sir, we of the Ulema group say that we believe in Divine Dispensation and what is revealed in the Shariat should be the criterion

to decide what is the right type of men for this purpose. Man is always subject to errors: man is always apt to commit blunders. Therefore we have firm faith and belief in Divine Revelations and in nothing else. From personal experience of men in this country and abroad and from history we find that the Divine Dispensation is the only saviour for all human beings. And ours being the Last Dispensation——

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanaullah, you are speaking on the administration of justice done by human beings and you should deal with that only.

Dr. SANAULLAH: That is exactly what I am coming to. No doubt that human beings will administer justice but the judges should be the right type of men and the witnesses should be honest and truthful. That is the reason why we believe in angels who are truth personified. That is why we think that the Omnipotent and Omniscient Allah should be our Guide and honesty should be our motto when appointing Public Prosecutors and Government Pleaders.

(At this stage the house was adjourned for fifteen minutes for prayer.)

(*After adjournment.*)

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Sir, my friend Mr. Sanyal No. I—Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal—has given us a list of general cases which happened in the country. He does not furnish us with the name of a single person who is involved in it. As I saw the Civil List, I found that more than 80 per cent. of the Subdivisional Officers are men of Caste Hindus. If my friend can think that they are not fit for these places, I think they condemn themselves. (Laughter) I cannot for a moment believe that the statement which my friend has put before the House actually reflects the truth. It may be in his imagination. He might have got some hallucination which has produced all these cases, otherwise if he had the courage, he could have given us the names of all those officers who created all the mischief that he has painted before us.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. For reasons of parliamentary propriety I cannot give the names.

Mr. SPEAKER: I know that. He cannot say that.

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: From my experience I have never come across in my public life up to date any act of the kind which my friend has just narrated before the House. I am at least 20 years senior to him and during all these forty years of my public life, I have never heard that any officer can do as mean and cowardly an act as he has actually placed before the House. When the facts are not before the Government, he is not in a position to say whether Government can take any action at all against the officers who are guilty, as my friend was saying, of a wrong that has been perpetrated and this I can say on behalf of the Home Minister as well. Neither the Home Minister nor the Minister of Civil Supplies is aware of the facts which my friend has placed before the House. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: How can they? They will never be aware.) Then the question is if it is a vague generalisation like this, I do not believe that any action can be taken or any action can be suggested to the right quarters even.

Then comes my friend Dr. Sanyal. He in his usual way has complained against the High Court. He says that the High Court is not working properly. May I point out to him just one instance (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Pollard case) where the High Court said that the Government of India even is not right in having an Ordinance (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: For which you are appealing to the Privy Council.) under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules. That has been declared to be *ultra vires* by this very High Court (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Not by this Chief Justice.) and that has also been accepted by the Federal Court (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But the Government of Bengal has not accepted it). Here you had been speaking against the High Court and not against any particular Judge, but if this High Court was not in existence, then who would have given you this judgment? That shows that the High Court has been working independently and for the good of the country.

Then, as regards some of the allegations which my friend Dr. Sanyal has made——

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: On a question of privilege, Sir. The mike is not working. We cannot hear the Hon'ble Minister at all.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is working.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is just like the other organs of the Government. (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I may simply tell him that as far as my knowledge goes, they have been working rightly and honestly. I oppose the motion that has been moved by him.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Pollardএর prosecution এর বেলায় কোন sanction হলো না কেন?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: It is not my department which is responsible for this. As regards sanction I may tell him that it is the Home Department which is responsible for all these actions and my department cannot be held responsible for these things. When the fact is like this I cannot but oppose the motion of my friend Dr. Sanyal:

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: For once you do not oppose; let us see what happens! (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: As regards Maulvi Azhar Ali he has made some allegations. He has said that we are delaying in making some appointments. I may say that better delay than do a thing so quickly. My friend ought to know in this case the difficulty of appointment is really very great. It is not a one-party question. District Officers and Divisional Commissioners also come into the picture, and whenever an appointment is to be made, that appointment must have the approval of all the parties concerned. Here the Minister is not the only person who is concerned. When the Minister disagrees, the matter goes to the Commissioner and the Collector, and it takes a long time for us to get their opinion.

As regards some of the people who are still working as Government Pleaders and Public Prosecutors (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You must stand by the rights of those old men!) you cannot all on a sudden turn out these people for whom we have not provided any pension. If you want to turn out a man who has given you service for years, you must think of his case seriously before you do so. We can give them some extension and get their services. Of course time has come when we should do something and if the House thinks that they should go, they will go and I will carry out the wish of the House. (A voice: Give them some allowance.) As regards allowances, I cannot say anything. In these circumstances, I do not think that I can support the motion of my friend Maulvi Azhar Ali also and I oppose it.

The motion of Maulvi Azhar Ali that the demand of Rs. 80,99,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 80,99,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Idris Ahmad Mia that the demand of Rs. 80,99,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nailnaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 80,99,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur, that a sum of Rs. 80,99,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "27 Administration of Justice" was then put and agreed to.

42—Co-operation.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 17,17,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation".

Sir, in presenting these demands——

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it will be better if you reserve your remarks until cut motions are moved.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Sir, I feel that most of the points to be raised in the cut motions will be met.

Mr. SPEAKER: The whole trouble is that whatever you may say now, the Opposition members will move their cut motions. Therefore it will be better if you reserve your remarks.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Sir, at the fag end of the day it becomes very anomalous to reply to to all the points to be raised categorically.

Mr. SPEAKER: How long will you take?

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Five to seven minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right, go on.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Sir, in presenting these demands I would submit in brief the policy of the Government so far as this department is concerned. With regard to the debt of members of rural societies, most of which have become frozen, the policy of the department as in previous years has been to have this debt settled through debt settlement boards according to their repaying capacity and arrange payment thereof through suitable instalments spread over a number of years not exceeding 15 as may be necessary. Members are now coming to debt settlement boards in increasing numbers—

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: On a point of order, Sir. He is speaking regarding debt settlement board. This demand is for "Co-operation". He has probably got that speech ready with regard to debt settlement boards but the present demand is under "Co-operation".

Mr. SPEAKER: There are two different demands—one "Debt Conciliation" and the other "Co-operation". I think it will be better if the Hon'ble Minister confines himself to co-operation *minus* Debt Conciliation.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Sir, the function of the ordinary debt settlement boards is to settle——

Mr. SPEAKER: The best thing would be if you had moved both "General Administration—Debt Conciliation" and "Co-operation" together. Now you have already moved "Co-operation". You move the demand under the other head too and then deliver one speech. That will cover the whole case.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: On a point of order, Sir. That cannot be done because "Debt Conciliation" is covered by a different grant.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no harm because these are allied subjects like Public Health and Medical. There is no harm in moving them together and making one speech.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: They are two different grants.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: There is a great deal of difference between the two. The function of debt settlement boards is to settle debts of ordinary creditors but——

Mr. SPEAKER: I think I have got some ideas about Co-operation and Debt Conciliation. I can distinguish the two. There is no doubt about that. It can be distinguished one from the other and speeches may be adapted accordingly. I suggest that because there is some relation between the two, it might be desirable and it might facilitate discusion if these two grants be moved together and one discussion followed. It would save time if there is no objection on either side to that procedure. I am not going to insist upon that. That is not my idea at all. But in that case you will have to be very careful in making your speech. You will have to confine yourself to Co-operation *minus* Debt Conciliation.

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: If you will be good enough to look at the Red Book, you will find that Co-operation is Grant No. 42 and Debt Conciliation Grant No. 25. I submit that my hon'ble friend the

Minister will have to move these two grants separately. His speech on Grant No. 25 will have to be different from his speech on Grant No. 42. The Hon'ble Minister perhaps has got his manuscript ready lumping up the two grants and it may be convenient for him but I submit that under the rules the two grants must be moved separately.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is no good wasting time. Mr. Mandal, please go on with your speech on Co-operation.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: The department is anxious to see that the debts of all the members are settled as early as possible so that the correct position of the assets of the co-operative societies may be ascertained and ways and means devised for the rehabilitation of the movement. The policy of helping the members with seasonal credit for the cultivation of crops also continues. The issue of such loans suffered to an extent this year due to the disturbed conditions in the eastern part of the province owing to the war and also due to certain delay in the resumption of the actual business relationship with the Provincial Bank which was suspended for a year because of non-fulfilment of certain conditions of crop loan which used to be issued through the said Bank. A total crop loan of Rs. 17,39,485 has so far been advanced and some applications for loans are pending. The total Budget provision for crop loan through co-operative societies during the year was Rs. 60,00,000.

Issue of long-term loans has now been definitely taken away from the Central Banks which are for the present left with crop loans only and is being entrusted to a special type of banks which are known as Land Mortgage Banks of which we have now 9 in 9 districts of the province. One more such bank was established at Feni in the district of Noakhali, but could not be given a start due to the intensive military activities in the area.

The proposal of raising funds for these banks through debentures has not materialised. The advice of the Reserve Bank of India has been against the floating of any debenture so long as the present unsettled conditions in the money market continue. The Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank, Limited, which was financing the Land Mortgage Banks as a temporary measure discontinued to do so as it did not suit it to advance long-term loans with short-term deposits received by it. Accordingly, the Government has undertaken to finance these banks from the last year. A sum of Rs. 2 lakhs was advanced during the previous year for this purpose and another sum of Rs. 3⅜ lakhs has been provided in the current year's Budget. There has been comparatively smaller demand for loans from these banks during the year as the substantial agriculturists who are served by them are now better off due to the abnormal rise in the prices of agricultural commodities.

A sub-committee for the co-operative movement in Bengal under the Bengal Post-War Reconstruction Committee has recently been appointed. The terms of reference include almost all the aspects of the movement.

In view of the very satisfactory paddy harvest this year and the very favourable market conditions, a collection drive has been arranged in all the districts of the province and an extensive propaganda is in progress to induce the agriculturists to take the full advantage of the present highly advantageous position and reduce their debt to the best of their capacity.

The collection is expected to considerably improve this year with a decidedly salutary effect on the movement as a whole.

Increasing attention is being paid to the development of co-operative marketing. The marketing societies made considerable progress during the last two years and earned large profits due to the exceptionally good market prevailing in those years. This has enabled them to build up substantial reserve funds to their material advantage. The Gosaba Sale and Supply Society in the district of the 24-Parganas and the Parbatipur Sale and Supply Society in Dinajpur district made a profit of about Rs. 2,30,000 and 2 lakhs respectievly this year. Other societies also earned a good profit to the advantage of their members. The number of marketing societies is 40 of which 11 are financed by Government.

There has been a great demand for consumers' societies during the year owing to the abnormal food situation in the country. Not less than 200 such societies have been organised in all parts of the province. Thirty-one of them have been established in the city of Calcutta itself. Thirteen of these societies have also been included in the present rationing scheme. Apart from this, many of the Central Banks and important co-operative societies have opened a store section and are supplying foodstuffs to the consuming public at reasonable prices. A large number of Central Banks have also been appointed as distributing agents for standard cloth. A few participated in the last *Aus* Procurement and Purchase Scheme of the Civil Supplies Department and collected about 80,000 maunds of paddy and rice from both members and non-members. A large number of them and also the marketing societies are participating in the present *Aman* Procurement and purchase Scheme of the Civil Supplies Department.

Many of the Central Banks have earned substantial profits through the side business in controlled commodities, standard cloth and also by supply of *aus* paddy to the Civil Supplies Department. They are on the one hand serving the consuming public and on the other improving the financial position to their much needed relief. War orders for supply of textile goods manufactured by co-operative societies to the value of Rs. 6 lakhs were secured from the Department of Supply, Government of India—$\frac{3}{4}$ths of these orders have been satisfactorily executed and the remaining $\frac{1}{4}$th is under execution. This has provided work to the members of the weavers' societies during the present distress and revived the activities of these societies. The members have also acquired a proficiency in improved weaving which will be helpful to them in their profession.

Maulvi WALIUR RAHMAN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 17,17,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100.

In moving this motion, Sir, I wish to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to take effective steps to give relief to the members of the rural societies from their heavy debts they have been unfortunately involved in.

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, যারা Co-operative movementএর কাছে মহাজন ও money-lendersদের হাত হতে বাঁচবার জন্য গিয়েছে, আজ তাদের দুর্দশা দেখে দুঃখে সকলেরই মন ভারাক্রান্ত হয়ে পড়ে। যে সময় এই movementটা started হয়েছিল তখন

তাদের মনে কতই না আশা-ভরসা হয়েছিল যে তারা money-lenderদের হাত থেকে বেঁচে যাবে এবং কম সুদে টাকা পেয়ে তাদের চাষবাসের উন্নতি করতে পারবে। কিন্তু departmentটাতে এমনি mismanagement হয়ে এসেছে এবং গভর্ণমেণ্ট এমন সব বাজে কর্ম্মচারী নিযুক্ত করেছেন যে তাদের কাজের ফলে যারা co-operativeএর কাছে এসেছিল আশা করে ঋণ লাঘবের জন্যে, তারা আজ আরো বেশী ঋণভারে জর্জ্জরিত হ'য়ে পড়েছে। প্রথমতঃ যে সময় এই সমস্ত Central Banks started হয় তখন বলা হয়েছিল যে গভর্ণমেণ্টের হাতে লোকের যে টাকা খাটবে—তদ্দ্বারা তাদের বহু লাভ হবে। তার ফলে অনেক money-lenders তাহাদের টাকা এনে Central Bankএ deposit করেছিল। তখন Central Bankএর deposit এত বাড়িয়া গিয়াছিল যে Central Bankকে লোকসানের হাত হইতে বাঁচাইবার জন্য rural societyকে অপরিমিত টাকা দাদন দেয়া হয়েছিল—judiciously এবং considerately দেওয়া হইয়াছিল না। এমনিভাবে টাকা দাদনে তাহাদিগকে ruin করা হয়েছে। আজ তাদের দেবার capacity পর্য্যন্ত নাই। High Departmental Officer যাঁরা ছিলেন তাঁদের কাছে কৃতিত্ব ও ভাল কাজ দেখাবার জন্য A class ও B class society সৃষ্টি করিবার জন্য paper transaction করে সুদকে আসলে ধরে দিয়ে case তৈরী করেছে এবং সুদ আসল একুন করিয়া আসলে পরিণত করতঃ তমসুক আদায় করিয়া লইয়া তাহাদের ঋণভার বাড়াইয়া দেওয়া হইয়াছিল। তারপর ক্রমে ক্রমে তারা এমন অবস্থায় পতিত হইয়াছে যে তাদের যা কিছু আয় ও সম্পত্তি আছে তা দ্বারা ধার শোধের আর কোন উপায় হয়ে উঠে না।

তারপর যখন সমস্ত দেনদারদের অব্যাহতি দেবার জন্য Money-lending Act হলো তার কোন সুবিধা এই কো-অপারেটিভএর দেনদারদের দেয়া হলো না money-lending আইনের আগে যে সুদের আইন ছিল তাতে সুদ-আসলে আসলের ডবল হলে তদতিরিক্ত সুদ থেকে লোককে অব্যাহতি দেয়া হতো। কোর্ট কখনো কোন লোকের বিরুদ্ধে আসলের ডবলের বেশী ডিক্রী দিতেন না। কিন্তু এখন দেখা যাচেছ rural credit societyর অনেক member আছে তারা তাদের দেনার সুদ আসল অপেক্ষা দ্বিগুণ-তিনগুণ দিয়েছে, তবু তাদের দেনা শোধ হয় না। তাছাড়া audit fee এবং বিবিধ supervising officersদের খাদ্য প্রভৃতি যোগানের দরুণ কত যে দুর্ভোগ ভুগতে হয় তার কোন প্রতিকার পর্য্যন্ত নাই। তারা শুধু ঋণজালে জড়িয়ে পড়ার ফলে সুদের টাকার উপর সুদ দিতে বাধ্য হচেচ। আবার একটা audit fee আদায় করা হয় এই সমস্ত rural societyর memberদের নিকট হতে। এ বিষয়েও তাদের আজ পর্য্যন্ত অব্যাহতি দেওয়া হয় নাই। তারপর আমাদের Hon'ble Minister হয়তো বলবেন Debt Conciliation Board সব হয়েছে—তাদ্বারা অনেকে উপকৃত হবে। কিন্তু একথা আমি অভিজ্ঞতা থেকে বলতে পারি যে private conciliation বোর্ড দ্বারা যে উপকার হয়—তাঁদের Debt Conciliation Board দ্বারা তা হয় না। সেখানে কিস্তি-বন্দীর কিস্তি অনুসারে টাকা দিলেই যথেষ্ট; তার কোন সুদ চলে না; কিন্তু rural societyর মেম্বরদিগের co-operativeএর দেনার সুদ চলিবে এবং কোন সুদের হাত হইতে অব্যাহতি পায় না। তাহারা চির দেনদার রহিয়া যাইতেছে। এখন টাকা কর্জ দরকার হইলে তাহা Central Bank ও দেয় না, কোন private মহাজনও দেয় না। কেবল তারা সুদ দিয়া যাইতেছে—সে ঋণের হাত হইতে বাঁচবার কোন উপায় নাই।

(The member having reached time-limit resumed his seat.)

Maulvi WALIUR RAHMAN: Sir, I have got another motion which I want to move and on which I want to speak also.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can simply move the other motion formally if you like but you cannot have any more time to speak on it.

Maulvi WALIUR RAHMAN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 17,17,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion, Sir, with a view to raising a discussion about the failure of Government to reorganise the movement in the right line to improve the economic condition of the people.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 17,17,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, in moving this motion I want to raise a discussion about the supply of adulterated co-operative milk.

I beg also to move that the demand of Rs. 17,17,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion, Sir, with a view to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to bring handloom industry of the province under co-operative societies.

This evening, Sir——

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: On a point of order, Sir. The first motion intends to raise a discussion about the supply of adulterated co-operative milk. What does the mover mean by that?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: I shall just now make it clear to the Hon'ble Minister himself and to the House what is meant by a discussion about the supply of adulterated co-operative milk, and I shall satisfy the House that milk supply in this case is a matter which concerns the Co-operative Department.

Sir, one retired Deputy Registrar of the department was appointed a Special Officer for the Provincial Co-operative Bank. He could not remain satisfied with this new job alone but he managed to get himself nominated on the Board of Directors of the Co-operative Milk Union and also got himself appointed as the Deputy Chairman on a monthly salary of Rs. 150. This officer functioned there for some time as the Deputy Chairman drawing Rs. 150 in addition to the salary which he drew from the Bengal Public Exchequer. During his time corruption was noticed in the affairs of the union and it rose to such a height that the Board of Directors were disgusted and cut down his salary from Rs. 150 to Rs. 75. They thought that he would resign as a result of the step that they had taken. But he did not. Subsequently, the Board of Directors by a resolution forced him to tender his resignation and then he resigned. But he is still shining as a Special Officer of the Provincial Co-operative Bank absolutely for nothing. Soon after that another supporter of the Ministry was again nominated on the Board of Directors and was also appointed through the instrumentality or influence of the present Ministry as Deputy Chairman of the Milk Union.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: On a point of order, Sir. His motion relates to the subject of supply of adulterated milk by a

certain organisation, but is he in order when he discusses what has happened to that society, its administration, its origin and so on?

Mr. SPEAKER: Certainly he is entitled to discuss these things in a Budget discussion.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: That may be, but is it permissible——

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, it is

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Then, Sir, he was appointed Deputy Chairman and he was drawing and is still drawing Rs. 150 from that union. And who is this gentleman? He is no other person than the Parliamentary Secretary of the Co-operative Department. He is drawing hundreds of rupees from the Bengal exchequer as a Parliamentary Secretary and he has been as Deputy Chairman drawing Rs. 150 which is equal to the salary of the member of this House. I question the propriety of this gentleman becoming the Deputy Chairman. Is it permissible under Government rules? It is during his tenure of office that there has been adulteration of milk to its present extent.

Sir, a fund has been opened by this gentleman. He is at the helm of affairs of the union as Deputy Chairman. The fund is known as the Special Contingency Fund. Why? The reason is very clear. Some time ago there was detection and there were some cases and those cases ended in convictions. This union was convicted and fined several times.

Then, Sir, the Medical College is the biggest consumer of this union and the authorities were dissatisfied. There were good many cases from that institution. Then in order to satisfy, in order to silence them, Government has nominated the Secretary of the Medical College on the Board of Directors of this union. That was not the end of the matter. The special contingency fund created by this gentleman, the Deputy Chairman, is being utilised to silence the Medical College staff by underhand means.

Now, Sir, milk is purchased from members of the union at a lower rate. These poor people cannot raise their little fingers against this gentleman, they cannot say anything because he is a semi-Minister or he has the Minister at his back. Milk is adulterated; milk is purchased from these members of the union at a lower rate, and adulterated milk is purchased in the market. Not only that. Buffalo's milk is purchased and water is added to it to dilute it. Skimmed milk is also purchased and diluted with water as the skimmed milk has the highest specific gravity. I do not know whether there is any bargain in the profit between this Deputy Chairman and the employees of the union. The Minister has to explain the conduct of this Deputy Chairman, because after all he happens to be the Parliamentary Secretary of the Minister.

Sir, I now pass on to the other motion and I will try to finish in a minute. The grant under this head is unsatisfactory. There was a grant from the Central Government for organising this handloom industry in Bengal. That was to some extent utilised by the previous Government but this Government did not take any initiative for popularising handloom industry in Bengal, and there is absolutely no provision in the Budget for organising it. You know, Sir, that there are classes of weavers in this

country, both Hindus and Mussalmans, who are known as *tantis* and *karikars*. They have been turned destitute by the last famine and the Budget will show that a paltry sum of Rs. 1 lakh and 90 thousand has been provided for getting nets and looms for them. Yesterday my honourable friend Mr. Datta pointed out that the fishermen, cobblers and other backward classes are neglected in the sphere of education. I would submit that not only in the sphere of education but in other spheres also they are trodden hordes and nobody takes care of them. There is fly shuttle weaving in our part of the country among the Muslim weavers. It is a nice thing to see. Even the womenfolk at leisure hours produce cloth and *lungis*. If there was a Government subsidy, if there was a Government grant, if there was regular and sufficient help, if they were orgnised under co-operation, if there was co-ordination and co-operation between the Departments of Industry and Co-operation, certainly this class of people or classes of people would have their backbone straight and they might have stood the shock of the last famine and Government would not have to spend any amount for purchasing the fishing nets and looms.

Mr. SUKUMAR DUTTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 17,17,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the scheme for the development of handloom industries. I also support the motion of Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar.

Sir, this Co-operative Department has absolutely failed to organise and improve the handloom industry in Bengal though it had great opportunities of doing so. The major portion of the grant for handloom industry from the India Government goes to the Co-operative Department and so the responsibility of the department for the development of handloom industry is very great, but in the past this department has misspent the money for this grant in a manner which is not at all excusable. A calendering machine was bought from the money from this grant which was subsequently used by a power loom factory. Nearly half of the grant was spent in subsidising one solitary organisation which did very little for the development of the handloom industry. I only hope that this money should be spent for this purpose.

In recent times the Co-operative Department did not enjoy a good reputation for honesty and efficiency. The defalcation and subsequent bankruptcy of the numerous co-operative credit societies is a scandal. The department has nothing to be proud of. Of course, as regards handloom the department has not fared so badly but still much is left undone and there is scope for great improvement. The Minister in charge and the responsible officers of the department should take this up in right earnest. They must realise the importance of developing handloom industry specially at this time. They should take a lesson from Madras where handloom co-operative societies are a splendid success. Unfortunately, the Ministers themselves seldom look into these matters and things are left to the permanent officials who seldom bother much about any scheme. Thus even under the so-called self-government there is very little improvement in the nation building department. I sincerely appeal to the Minister-in-charge who has recently been in the *gadi* not to follow the foot-prints of his predecessors

in merely leaving everything to the official but to take a personal interest in the handloom industry the development of which is a vital problem of this province. I can assure him that he shall get every co-operation in this matter from the Opposition benches.

In this connection I should mention that the three departments dealing with handloom industry, namely, the Co-operative, the Industries and the Civil Supplies whose business is the yarn control which is very much vital to the handloom industry, should be co-ordinated and a conference should at once be convened with the Ministers in charge of the departments and the M. L. As. from different handloom centres to formulate a scheme for the development of handloom industry and steps should be immediately taken to the formation of an autonomous handloom board with adequate funds for the execution of such schemes. That this department is not well alert to the interest of handloom industry is apparent from the fact that it has not protested against the imposition of sales tax on handloom products which has affected the sale of the handloom products from the co-operative depots. I request the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Department through you to take this matter up even at this late hour before the new sales tax passes through the Upper House.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 17,17,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about failure of Government in organising more consumers' village co-operative societies in rural Bengal.

আজ দেশের এই ঘোর দুর্দ্দিনে যখন দেশে অন্ন নাই, বস্ত্র নাই, ঔষধ নাই, নিত্য নূতন কর বসাইয়া রাজ্য পরিচালনা করবার ব্যবস্থা হইতেছে, অথচ আমাদের দেশের জনসাধারণের নিকট পথ্য বিতরণ করবার ব্যবস্থা নাই। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় ভাল করিয়া জানেন যে কোন দেশের উন্নতি করিতে হইলে সমবায় পদ্ধতি বিশেষভাবে কার্য্যকরী করা প্রয়োজন। তিনি বলিয়াছেন, দেশের জনসাধারণের নিকট পথ্য বিতরণ করিবার জন্য ২০০ consumers' society স্থাপন করা হইয়াছে। কিন্তু আমার মনে হয় এইগুলি পল্লী-অঞ্চলে স্থাপন করা হয় নাই। পল্লী-অঞ্চলের লোকের আর্থিক অবস্থা কিরূপ চরম অবস্থায় পেঁৗছিয়াছে তাহা কি মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অবগত আছেন? বঙ্গীয় মহাজনী আইন পাশ হইবার পর গভর্ণমেণ্ট পল্লী-অঞ্চলে স্থানীয় লোকদের সাহায্য লইয়া তথায় সমবায় সমিতির প্রতিষ্ঠান করিয়া ঋণদান করিবার কোনই ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই। আজ আমাদের দেশের এই দারুণ আর্থিক দুরাবস্থার দিনে co-operative আন্দোলন successful করিবার জন্য কি ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে? তিনি বলিয়াছেন, এই আন্দোলন কার্য্যকরী করিবার জন্য propaganda চালান হইতেছে। আমরা জানি propaganda ছাড়া আর কিছুই করা হয় নাই। বর্ত্তমানে propaganda চালাইবার জন্য আর একটি department খোলা হইয়াছে—Jute Regulation Department. এই আন্দোলনকে কার্য্যকরী করিতে হইলে, দেশের জনসাধারণের মধ্যে co-operative আন্দোলনকে জনপ্রিয় করিতে হইলে, গভর্ণমেণ্টের শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, কৃষি, শিল্প বিভাগের Director এবং Registrar তাঁদের সম্মিলিত চেষ্টায় একটি সুনিয়ন্ত্রিত পন্থা অবলম্বন করিয়া পল্লী-সমিতি গঠন করিয়া মঙ্গলের ব্যবস্থা করা প্রয়োজন।

দুঃখের বিষয় পল্লী-অঞ্চলে co-operative societyগুলিকে কেবল electionএর সময় কার্য্যকরী হইতে দেখা যায়। অন্যথা তাহাদের কাজ কেবল Central Bank হইতে ঋণ গ্রহন, ইহাদ্বারা আর কোন কাজ দেখিতে পাওয়া যায় না।

যদি দেশকে বাঁচাইতে চান এবং রাজনৈতিক স্বাধীনতা আনিতে চান তাহা হইলে co-operative movementকে কার্য্যকরী করিয়া জাতির অর্থনৈতিক কাঠামও দৃঢ় করিয়া প্রস্তুত করিতে হইবে। পল্লী-অঞ্চলে consumers' purchasing society, marketing society স্থাপন করিতে হইবে।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr Speaker, Sir, I crave your permission to move the motion standing in the name of my esteemed friend Mr. Sibnath Banerjee, who is under detention. I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 17,17,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to set up co-operative consumers' societies and purchase and sale societies to reduce the harmful activities of the hoarders and black marketers and the failure to financially help and encourage the existing co-operative consumers' and purchase and sale societies in existence and for not giving the charge of distributing rationed articles to about 40 of the existing consumers' stores of the province.

Sir, unlike our previous speakers this evening, I would like to strike a new note. I would submit that the Government of Bengal have lost a valuable opportunity and have allowed something which could be built upon the debris of a devastated nation to be left unfinished. Last year when we had famine stalking this land there was insistent demand from various parts to have all-parties or non-parties local food committees set up for rural areas both for collecting local resources as much as possible as well as to assess the needs and help in the disrtibution of foodstuffs. Food committees were constituted at an enormous cost at different places, but unfortunately little heed was paid to the possibility of co-operative organisation in every part of Bengal to undertake the huge task of not only maintaining civil supplies but also rehabilitation of the dying and devastated countryside. Our grievance is that throughout the last 36 or 40 years of the co-operative movement in this province more emphasis has been laid on credit societies than on other co-operative organisations and neither consumers' societies nor multiple societies received the requisite attention. As a result when we were in need of a machinery to assist Government in this important task of maintaining food and the essentials of the lives of the people Government had to look first to the trade and when trade agency was found to be not adequate enough or corrupt in malpractices Government had to set up its own machinery composed of Government servants and nominees. In both these attempts and experiments we had unfortunately much sad experience and my grievance is that Government did not take sufficient steps to allow a new organisation on the basis of co-operation, which was practically the only possible organisation to give proper succour to the people, to be built up, without depending on private organisations on profit basis. I submit, Sir, that it is not yet too late and I know there are co-operators throughout this province who are anxious to assist Government in this important task.

We are not yet out of the wood and I feel that if Government takes the matter up more seriously and sincerely, it is not yet too late to set up a sufficient number of co-operative societies, to have a net work created throughout the province for taking up this important task of maintaining civil supplies.

While on this, I cannot but sound a note of warning to the Government regarding this setting up of co-operative machinery for in one respect they have so far failed to inspire confidence. One important reason for the failure has been the failure to select proper officials. The efficiency of the staff and their integrity have not been up to our expectations mainly because the selection of the staff has not been done on the basis on which we would like it to be done namely through the help of the Public Service Commission. The staff in the Co-operative Department, the inspectors and auditors in particular and even up to the Assistant Registrar, they are selected by a small sub-committee or a Board composed of the Registrar, the Deputy Registrar, the Parliamentary Secretary and one Special Officer and the Personal Assistant to the Registrar Of these people, again unfortunately for us, two officers are holding officiating appointments and therefore they cannot but go on pleasing the powers that be. The third officer who is the Personal Assistant is one about whom the province went into furore a few years ago and about whom a severe castigation was also made by a Tribunal of the Government and yet, Sir, that officer has now been brought down to assist the department not only as Personal Assistant to the Registrar but also as an important person to select new entrants to the department. He is nothing more than a *bazar sircar* of the Minister in charge.

The Parliamentary Secretary who is a particular friend of mine is one of the persons who is also helping in the selection, about whose activities certain revelations have been made in the House today I would not like to dwell on that matter any more.

With regard to the transfer and appointments, considerations other than efficiency have been allowed in such a manner to come into play that the whole department has become corrupt and suspect. I would appeal to the Government to see that the situation is at least attempted to be taken out of this rut and in this matter it is not merely that Hindus are suffering but Hindus and Muslims both suffer equally. I say, Sir, that there have been Muslims in the department who have given very good service but they are stepped over by certain relations or friends of particular persons in high office. In Calcutta, for example, there is one relation of an important member of this House who although a Matriculate and was a few years ago only an Inspector of the department low in the grade, was temporarily promoted in the department as a Divisional Auditor and while he was officiating as such only for seven days, within 7 days, he was promoted to the post of an Assistant Registrar and he was given charge of the important district, Calcutta itself. That gentleman superseded the claims of numerous Divisional Auditors and Inspectors, Hindus as well as Muslims.

Transfers are being made on communal and patronage basis. Here also not only the Hindus but also the Muslims suffer. Two Muslim officers, Assistant Registrars, were transferred to Chittagong from Dacca one after the other. The first one had only a few months to serve before retiring and

yet because he could not please certain superior boss he had to go on transfer on the eve of retirement. The vacancy caused has not been filled up. The inefficiency of the department is also due to the fact that numerous cases of appointments are pending. Appointments are not made permanent. Persons are allowed to hold certain temporary posts and local arrangements are resorted to to enable patronage to be distributed without reference to higher authorities or to ordinary rules of appointment in Government service. Temporary appointments are not attended to by the higher officials in the Secretariat so much. So, in the name of temporary appointments persons are allowed to hold office for nearly 15 or 18 months and so on. That upsets the programme of either the Communal Ratio Service Rules or anything else, viz., promotion on grounds of merit. Persons are also allowed to hold local posts which are temporarily created ostensibly for taking up some immediate problems at the beginning and when local problems take the shape of provincial issues, these persons are allowed to hold the posts without reference to the usual rules of recruitment and they continue to hold them for a long time with the result that undesirable persons are permitted to continue in the department without any scrutiny. In this way we find that there are a large number of posts and important offices in the department which are allowed to remain unfilled for nearly two years. A large number of posts were still lying vacant. Advertisements were issued, selections were proposed to be made about six months ago, interviews were finished about two months ago and yet, Sir, the appointments have been kept pending.

Here I come to another interesting point. We have been noticing this malpractice from this side of the House not merely with regard to this Government but also the other Governments previous to this which were equally responsible in this respect. This is to hold up appointments in the Co-operative Department till the Assembly session is over. I do not know what is the real intention of holding up certain appointments but we have had occasions to find out that there are members of this Assembly who run to Ministers in charge and the Government for helping their friends and relations with jobs and I am afraid I shall not be far wrong in presuming that these appointments are always held up as baits to keep the party in strength. Here I would first invite the attention of the House to an ex-Minister who is now smiling, viz., Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullick who was the greatest sinner in that respect.

I submit that the affairs of the department have been allowed to go so much wrong because auditing has not been permitted properly. During the last two or three years, auditors have not gone to a large number of banks and, Sir, as a result, we are not in a position to know what the financial conditions of some of the banks are. In that respect, even the Provincial Co-operative Bank of which my friend Mr. Wordsworth is the Chairman is equally guilty. We have not been in possession of the audit report for the year 1941-42 although two years are nearly over and therefore no general meeting is likely to be held or is possible.

Coming to the Provincial Co-operative Bank, we understand that there was a proposal to appoint a Chief Auditor for that bank. This appointment has been kept pending. Although there was a Public Service Commission recommendation, Government are sitting on the file for reasons best

known to themselves. There is a proposal for having an expert for that particular bank but I am not sure if the recommendation of the Reserve Bank of India is going to be accepted with regard to the qualifications of that officer who is so much needed——

(At this stage, the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. W. C. WORDSWORTH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I touch upon the one point on which I wish to speak may I reply to an observation of Dr. Sanyal's? He said that I or the bank of which I am the Chairman, was guilty of a dereliction of duty. Let me explain. We cannot have a general meeting. We ought to have it. We are anxious to have it, but by our bye-laws and the rules of the department we cannot have it until we have received the audit report from the department. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is what I said.) For several months we have been trying to get that audit report which is in the department but for some reason or other it has been found impossible to send that report across from Writers' Buildings to the east side of the Dalhousie Square, where we have our office. As soon as we get that report we shall have our general meeting which is long overdue through no fault of mine or of the Co-operative Bank. I shall touch upon one point in this long resolution of Mr. Sibnath Banerjee which Dr. Sanyal has so ably explained The point I wish to touch upon is the consumer's credit Some of us were recently invited to various meetings about this in Calcutta and I expected to see considerable results but I do not know what has happened. Either the meeting has voted it, or something else has been done. It may be that proposals have been put up to Government. I myself know nothing. But it is deplorable that in a province, situated as this province is today, we have so little consumer's credit. It would be a safety and bulwark of support to the public. The suggestion in the resolution is that Government should have set up these societies. I do not know whether Government could set them up: I do not know whether any one could set them up except those people who have enthusiasm amongst themselves can gather together and get the capital and find among themselves that business experience and ability which is necessary for carrying on any organisation or institution of the kind. But if proposals do work——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Some Government servants are paid for that work.

Mr. W. C. WORDSWORTH: If proposals are with the Government, I would strongly advise to make the very best use of them and give those people who are making proposals the fullest support and encouragement. In India we have little consumer's credit: we have gone rather in the direction of agricultural credit for reasons that are obvious. But in the last census of population the consumer's credit is a natural begining of co-operation. There is further a change in the business outlook of the world which makes us believe that co-operative credit is going to be a very large thing. The 19th century was occupied with the problems of production: the 20th century must solve problems of distribution if business and industry are not to collapse. Similarly, whatever may have been done in co-operation in the 19th century and in many countries, in my own, consumer's

credit has been its main strength. The consumer must become the point of departure for the organisation of co-operation in future. It is the consumer who ultimately gives value to production and unless we can do what the consumer wants and unless the consumer joins together and decides what production shall do for him, how production shall be distributed in practice to him and how he himself shall pay for these products and use these products, there will be a very great gap in the industry.

I, therefore, recommend part of this resolution strongly to the Minister in charge of the department and to the department, and I may say here that I think that the department is sadly in need of some new stimulating idea.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব! আমি সমবায় আন্দোলনের সঙ্গে যুক্ত আছি। ১৯১৪ সন থেকে এই আন্দোলন আমাদের দেশে প্রথমে মায়ের রূপ ধারণ করে এসেছিল, কিছুদিন পরে রাক্ষসীরূপ ধারণ করল। এই আন্দোলনের উদ্দেশ্য ছিল জন সাধারণকে অল্প সুদে টাকা কর্জ দিয়া বেশী সুদের দায়িত্ব থেকে তাদেব মুক্ত করা। কিন্তু কার্য্যক্ষেত্রে দেখা গেল মহাজনের ৫০০৲ টাকা পরিশোধ করিতে গিয়ে co-operative societyর নিকট দেনা হোল ১,০০০৲ টাকা, তার উপর ক্রমে সুদ চড়তে লাগল। সেই সুদের উপর আবার দণ্ড সুদ, কিস্তি খেলাপের সুদ চড়তে লাগল। এইভাবে বাংলাব জনসাধাবণ জর্জ্জরিত হতে লাগল এবং বহু টাকা দেওয়া সত্ত্বেও তাদের ঋণ পরিশোধ হোল না। যে সকল কো-অপারেটিভ ঋণসালিসী বোর্ড করা হয়েছে তার কর্ম্মকর্ত্তা হয়েছেন, সাধারণতঃ অডিটার ও সুপার-ভাইজার। তারা সমবায় সমিতিগুলির সুদের মাফ দিচ্ছে না, সুদে-আসলে কিস্তিবন্দি করছে এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে সুদ চলছে। বাংলার জনসাধারণের এই ঋণভার থেকে মুক্তি পাবার কোন আশাই দেখা যায় না। যদি তাহাদিগকে সুদ ও দণ্ড সুদ হইতে রেহাই দেওয়া না হয় তাহলে জীবনে তারা ঋণমুক্ত হতে পারবে না। অতএব আমি মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুবোধ করছি তিনি যেন বাংলার জনসাধারণকে co-operativeএর বেড়াজাল থেকে মুক্ত করে স্বাধীনভাবে সংসারযাত্রা নির্ব্বাহ করবার সুযোগ দেন এবং তাহারা যাতে নূতনভাবে এবং সুবিধাজনক সর্ত্তে কৃষিঋণ পায় তার ব্যবস্থা করেন।

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many points have been raised in the cut motions but I feel much time will not be allowed to me to give replies to all the points.

Sir, the points that have been raised by Mr. Waliur Rahman have been met in my opening speech. Many things have been done, particularly by the establishment of Special Co-operative Debt Settlement Boards to liquidate the debts of the members of the co-operative societies.

Now, Sir, what he has stated in the concluding portion of his speech is that audit fee is being realised and that the members are hard hit by it. I admit it. It would be better if Government could abolish this system of realising audit fees from the societies.

Then, Sir, another important point has been raised that under the Money-Lenders' Act only the double of the principal amount can be realised from a debtor, but with regard to a debt to the co-operative society, a debtor is not entitled to get that privilege. He is required to pay up interest for an unlimited period of time and a limitless amount.

Now, I would request the honourable members to realise that the credit supplied by the co-operative societies is secured by the Co-operative Central Banks and the deposits and the money of the share-holders constitute the capital of these Co-operative Central Banks. Now, the Central Banks have to pay interest to the depositors and the share-holders and the primary societies and co-operative societies have in their turn to pay interest to the Central Banks. If a debtor of a co-operative society is allowed to pay double the amount of the principal, then perhaps the co-operative societies will not be in a position to pay up interest to the Central Banks and the Central Banks in their turn will not be in a position to pay interest to the share-holders and depositors. A question of principle is involved here and it is engaging the attention of Government. But if Government adopts the principle that under no condition a debtor of a co-operative society shall have to pay more than double the principal, then perhaps Government shall have to make a large subsidy to either the Central Co-operative Banks or to the Provincial Bank. It is a big question and it is engaging the attention of Government and we are contemplating what measures should be adopted to give relief to the debtors of co-operative societies.

Maulvi WALIUR RAHMAN: Are you going to give any relief to the Central Banks by way of subvention?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Now, Sir, allegations made by Mr Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar against the Calcutta Milk Union are unfounded and his observations and allegations deserve no reply because of the fact that the charges made by him were levelled not against Government but aganist a particular institution constituted under the Co-operative Societies Act. Then again, his complaints were prompted by a very interested motive and that is this. His son-in-law Khan Sahib Wahiduzzman was the Deputy Chairman of the same Calcutta Milk Union and he used to draw a pay of Rs. 150 per month. Now, the Board of Directors have replaced him by Khan Bahadur Abdur Rahman who is Parliamentary Secretary to the Department of Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness and it is no fault of the department that the Board of Directors of the Milk Union have appointed a Parliamentary Secretary as the Deputy Chairman. Some salary is attached to the post from the beginning and everything—every function of the union—is controlled and guided according to the bye-laws framed by them. Now, Sir, I do not find any fault whatsoever in appointing a particular gentleman as the Deputy Chairman if the Milk Union think that by his appointment the condition of the union would improve.

Then, Sir, he has stated that the Milk Union has suffered several convictions. Those convictions, if suffered at all, were suffered during the Deputy Chairmanship of his son-in-law and not during the tenure of Khan Bahadur Abdur Rahman who is now the Deputy Chairman.

Then complaints have been made regarding the adulteration of milk, but, so far as my information goes, the Secretary of the Milk Union who is a paid officer is taking the utmost care and caution to see that milk is not adulterated or water is not mixed with milk. The Milk Union purchases milk from its societies and it only pasteurizes the milk here and

distributes. The Milk Union supplies milk to innumerable respectable hotels, restaurants and hospitals of Calcutta. The mover of the motion has also stated that the Medical College made some complaints. But in spite of that, the Medical College is taking a large quantity of milk from the Milk Union. Respectable restaurants like the Firpos are also getting their supply of milk from the Milk Union and innumerable other instances can be cited. Now, that is a business concern and if the customers find that the milk supplied by it is not genuine, then they can cease purchasing from the union. Government or this department has got very little to do with it. When any complaint is made to Government, Government surely makes an enquiry into the matter and tries to remedy the evil. (Mr. SUKUMAR DUTTA: Is it not the duty of the department to see that good milk is supplied?) Certainly. Limited companies are set up under the Companies Act and they manage their affairs according to their bye-laws, but the department is here to control and check their activities. If any complaint is made, surely the department is prepared to make an enquiry and remedy the evil.

Sir, to the other allegations which in my consideration are very mean I need not make any reply.

Then as regards the motion moved by Mr. Sukumar Dutta, I may say that many things have been done to improve the handloom industry of Bengal. Of course, prior to 1916, Government for want of adequate funds could not take up the matter in right earnest, but Government began to take interest for the development of the handloom industry from 1916. Till 1935 Government could not make much improvement, but after 1935 on receipt of a grant from the Government of India, the Provincial Government and this department have been taking much interest to improve the handloom industry. And my honourable friend will realise it by the fact that a few days back I presented a supplementary demand for this department alone and that sum was required to be spent or estimated for the development of handloom industry but he has said that there is no provision for the improvement of handloom industry. That is not a fact. There is provision for that and I would like to submit to my friend that this subject is engaging our utmost consideration and we are trying our level best to improve the handloom industry. He should realise that there is great difficulty now in securing yarn and giving it to weavers societies. If I am allowed sufficient time I can submit facts as to how many weavers societies have been organised. At present there is one provincial society, 12 unions and 358 primary weavers' societies, with a total number of members of 6,898.

Sir, I shall finish by making one or two replies to the charges made by Dr. Sanyal. The first portion of his speech was quite all right. I am also anxious to see that innumerable consumers societies are formed throughout the length and breadth of the country. But, Sir, it is for the public to organise such societies and Government and the staff of this department are very anxious to see that the entire province is covered with a network of consumers societies. The other allegations made by Dr. Sanyal are quite unfounded. Had he known the facts, he would not have made such remarks. I oppose all the cut motions moved.

The motion of Maulvi Waliur Rahman that the demand of Rs. 17,17,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

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The motion of Mr. Sukumar Dutta that the demand of Rs. 17,17,000 for expenditure under the head" 42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Adwaita Kumar Maji that the demand of Rs. 17,17,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 17,17,000 for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal that a sum of Rs. 17,17,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation" was then put and agreed to.

25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 17,50,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation".

Maulvi RAMIZUDDIN AHMED: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 17,50,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the policy of Government for creating deadlock in the working of many of the debt settlement boards.

Sir, though the Debt Settlement Act has given some relief to the poor debtors of Bengal, yet the desired benefit could not be secured for various reasons to which the Government attention has been drawn from time to time.

Up till now no procedure has been adopted for the speedy disposal of cases in the debt settlement boards when most of the boards are not invested with any power to bring the parties to a compromise unless they come to a voluntary agreement.

Secondly, most of the boards are not constituted with persons of honesty, ability and public spirit but in this reconstitution favouritism, undue influence, party consideration and in some cases dishonesty of the officers are playing an important part.

To give full relief and to dispose of cases speedily boards must be constituted with honest and able persons irrespective of party consideration and at the same time they must be invested with full power necessary to compel the parties to a decision.

Thirdly, no provision has yet been made for rural credit for the debtors who have got no means of paying their instalments.

The question of honesty in the selection of the personnnel of the boards and that of the rural credit have become more urgent and important now in view of the general atmosphere of corruption and dishonesty pervading at present throughout the officials and the public alike and in view of the unprecedented famine and distress in Bengal when lakhs and lakhs of people are dying for starvation or are half straved or half naked. It is simply madness at present to think of the debtors to pay their instalments without rural credit.

Now coming to the present Ministry I find that it is not only negligent and callous to the fate of the poor debtors but its activity is simply injurious and dangerous.

For more than a year Bengal is passing through a famine and acute distress unseen in the history of Bengal. Ninety-five per cent. of the people have no capacity to maintain themselves far from paying any debt or instalments. Many of the creditors are realising their dues from the debtors by certificate procedure and thus ruining many debtors. Yet the Government is silent. Government should either suspend the execution under the awards or make provision for rural credit.

The last Ministry with a view to give further relief to the debtors in these days of economic depression extended the period of application under the Act from 5 years to 7 years.

Sir, the present Ministry is undoing this period by creating almost a deadlock in the working many of the debt settlement boards. Hundreds of debt settlement boards are not going to be reconstituted for more than a year even after the expiration of their term of office; on the other hand the work of many other debt settlement boards, whose term of office has not yet expired, has been suspended by notices. Actually very few boards are working for the last one year.

When the present Ministry came to power in April last hundreds of debt settlement boards were reconstituted and the Divisional Commissioner sent their Gazette notifications to the Minister for publication. But the present Minister in charge instead of publishing them kept them in abeyance for more than six months and then sent them back to the local officers with secret instructions to change the personnels of the boards in consideration of party line irrespective of honesty, integrity and ability. Sir, I am just citing some concrete examples from my personal knowledge how the Ministers and some of their dishonest officers are dealing with the reconstitution of these boards. These examples will simply prove that the present Minister in charge in the name of reconstitution is trying to provide some dishonest persons in the debt settlement boards to earn their livelihood.

Sir, more than one year back in Muradnagar police-station within Tippera the Chairman of Paharpur Debt Settlement Board was detected

to have misappropriated public money. The then Subdivisional Officer (North), Sadar Comilla, recommended for the reconstitution of that board by removing the Chairman and some other members giving reasons of their removal. The Divisional Commissioner accepted the recommendation and sent the Gazette notification to the Minister for publication. In the meantime a new Subdivisional Officer (North), Sadar Comilla, came and he was unduly influenced and after six months now I learn that that very dishonest misappropriating Chairman has again been nominated for Chairmanship by the Subdivisional Officer. Another instance of this character is the reconstitution of the Goalmari Debt Settlement Board in Daudkandi police-station within my constituency. There for the last 3 years the board was working most satisfactorily under the Chairmanship of an honest and educated school teacher. In the words of the local officers it is one of the best debt settlement boards in the thana. In August last on the expiry of the term of the board the board was recommended *in toto* for reconstitution. The Divisional Commissioner sent the Gazette notification to the Minister for publication. But as in the other cases the Minister, after keeping it with him for six months, sent it back for reconstitution. In the meantime some dishonest persons managed to win over by *salami* and other unfair means the present Subdivisional Officer (North), Sadar Comilla, who gave pressure to the local officers to remove the present Chairman and some other members and to include amongst others a man who was removed from this board for dishonesty and corruption three years back. But the local officers did not agree to include this man as he is in their opinion a "proved dishonest" Now I learn that the Subdivisional Officer has removed all the honest persons including the Chairman without any reason and included that removed and proved dishonest man to make good his *salami* in spite of the protest of the local officers and local M. L. A.

I can cite many other examples of this nature, namely, Chandla Debt Settlement Board in Burichang police-station and other debt settlement boards.

If this be the state of affairs in the reconstitution of debt settlement boards under the present Ministry and if this be the corrupted mentality of a Subdivisional Officer like this, may God save the public from all such boards.

May I know if the Minister take the responsibility of the above noted officer, if not, will the Minister take notice and act against such officers if the allegations are found to be true?

With these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Sir, it is true that some delay has occurred and that some files have been sent back. Under the circular the boards should be reconstituted in consultation with the members of the Legislature so that they may be constituted in such a way as to command respect and confidence of the local people. No distinction has been made between this party and that party. Now, the honourable mover of this motion will certainly realise that the local officers are extremely busy with many other things, particularly in connection with war efforts. The honourable member who hails from Tippera knows that

the officers in his district are very busy now. Several reminders have been given and the Collector of Tippera has assured the Government that he would submit his proposal very soon.

Now, Sir, regarding the achievement of the debt settlement boards, I may say that more than 60 per cent. of debts of the agriculturists of Bengal have been by this time settled up, and I submit that much has been done by the debt settlement boards. I would, therefore, request my honourable friend to withdraw his cut motion.

The motion of Maulvi Ramizuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs. 17,50,000 under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr Jogendra Nath Mandal that the demand of Rs. 17,50,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration—Debt Conciliation" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 6-55 p.m. till 3-30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 15th March, 1944, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 15th March 1944, at 3-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 12 Hon'ble Ministers and 190 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which an oral answer was given)

Shortage of small coins.

***167. Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department aware of the fact that bronze coin and other small coins have hardly been available?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of drawing the attention of the Government of India to the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra Goswami): (*a*) Yes, but the position has lately improved.

(*b*) Government of India are aware of the position and they have already taken steps to increase the supply of small coins.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that in spite of the improvement of the position, much hardship is being felt by the public for want of small coins?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: As I have stated, the situation has greatly improved. Coinage and legal tender are matters for the Government of India and, I know, the Government of India are alive to the situation.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to inform the House as to in what way the situation has improved?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: By visible evidence.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Of what?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Of greater circulation and availability of coins.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the visible evidence is of lesser and lesser circulation everyday?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: That is not my experience?

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Does the Hon'ble Minister take the trouble of travelling in tram cars to have visible evidence of improvement manifest in tram cars?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: I have lately travelled in tram cars but I have not experienced any difficulty.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that one pice coin is not at all available?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: One pice does not purchase anything in these days.

Khan Bahadur SHAH ABDUR RAUF: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that many shop-keepers are hoarding small coins?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Yes, Sir, Government are aware of hoarding of small coins, and they are taking steps and, in some cases have taken steps.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Has the Hon'ble Minister made any enquiry into the condition of the mofussil areas and not of the Calcutta area alone?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, I cannot truthfully say that I have made thorough enquiries, but my information is that the situation is much easier in the districts.

Recruitment of Lawyer-Magistrate.

***168. Mr. MONMOHAN DAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the total number of Lawyer-Magistrates recruited by the Government recently, mentioning the number of—

(1) Muslims,
(2) Caste Hindus, and
(3) the Scheduled Castes separately; and

(*ii*) whether the communal ratio have been observed in case of these appointments?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) Preparatory steps have been taken for the recruitment of sixty such temporary Magistrates in all.

(*ii*) Appointments are being made strictly in accordance with the Communal Ratio Rules at present.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of them have since been appointed?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: So far 23 appointments have already been made.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: How many were recommended by the Public Service Commission?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The Public Service Commission recommended names but for police verification the names were sent to District Officers and on receipt of reports from District Officers the appointments were made.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: How many were the candidates who were recommended by the Public Service Commission?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Have all the candidates recommended by the Public Service Commission been given appointments?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already said that only 23 appointments have been made so far.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Out of these 23 candidates appointed, how many are Muslims and how many belong to the Scheduled Castes?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Of the appointments already made, 13 are Muslim, 9 Hindu and one a Scheduled Caste.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the priority of the Public Service Commission recommendations has been honoured in making the appointments?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the Communal Ratio Rules were not adhered to in the case of these appointments?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The Communal Ratio Rules are being adhered to, but I have already said that the appointments are being made in batches and because there was delay in the receipt of the police verification reports the ratio could not strictly be maintained but after the next batch which is being very shortly appointed is taken into consideration the communal parity will be maintained.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: When did the recommendations of the Public Service Commission reach Government?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: How many of those appointed are from the North Bengal districts?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Khan Bahadur SHAH ABDUR RAUF: How many candidates were recommended by the Public Service Commission and how many amongst them have been appointed?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: With regard to the first part, Sir, I want notice. With regard to the second part, I have already stated that 23 appointments have been made.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that so far no Caste Hindu or Scheduled Caste has been taken from North Bengal and that only one Muhammadan from North Bengal has been appointed?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: What percentage of the applicants were given interview by the Public Service Commission?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is a matter about which Government have no information.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Are the recommendations of the Public Service Commission going to be accepted *in toto* if the police reports are favourable?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes. Sir.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether only one Muslim applicant from Dacca was given an interview in spite of the fact that there were others from that district?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of that, and I want notice.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he considers the desirability of enquiring into the matter whether only one applicant was given an interview from Dacca?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I submit there is no need for any enquiry as it was a matter entirely for the Public Service Commission to deal with. They interviewed candidates and sent up recommendations to Government and Government have been following their recommendations.

Absence of number-plates in some military motor vehicles.

***169. Mr. S. A. SALIM:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware that—

(*i*) many military motor vehicles, especially "jeeps", do not carry any number-plates or identification marks or figures; and

(*ii*) this makes identification of vehicles impossible in case of accidents?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*)(*i*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps he has taken or proposes to take in the matter so that all motor vehicles, owned by military authorities will display some number or figure to render identification possible?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter has been represented to the authorities concerned.

Starred Question No. 169A.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Sir, this short-notice question was received only today and the Hon'ble Minister in charge is not here; so I would like to request that the question be held over.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the question be held over.

(Starred Question No. 169A was accordingly held over.)

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Realisation of subscription for relief fund in Thakurgaon, Dinajpur district.

74. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Subdivisional Officer of Thakurgaon in the district of Dinajpur

realised subscriptions for purpose of relief to the distressed public after he was elected the President of the Thakurgaon Subdivisional Food Committee during the year 1943?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the total amount realised;

(*ii*) what are the names of donors with their addresses;

(*iii*) whether any receipts were granted to the donors;

(*iv*) what amount has been spent so far for relief purposes;

(*v*) through whom;

(*vi*) with whom the money so collected is lying; and

(*vii*) if any accounting has been rendered by the Subdivisional Officer?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) Subscriptions have been realised by the Subdivisional Relief Committee and not by the Subdivisional Officer personally.

(*b*) (*i*) Rs.22,755.

(*ii*) A statement showing the principal donors is laid on the Table.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) Rs.4,661. The Food Committee has resolved that the balance should be spent on clothing, blankets, etc.

(*v*) Thakurgaon Town Food Committee and several Union Relief Committees.

(*vi*) The money has been kept in sealed bags in sub-treasury pending sanction to open Postal Savings Bank Account.

(*vii*) Every pie has been accounted for by the President of the Subdivisional Food Committee.

Statement referred to in (b) (ii) of unstarred question No. 74.

(As the number of donors is very large, only the names of big donors are given.)

Serial No.	Name.	Address.	Amount. Rs.
1	Umar Ali Sarkar	Barakote, P. O. Lahiri	500
2	Ahmed Ali Sarkar	Harinmari, P. O. Lahiri	500
3	Messrs. Mustafa Rice Mills	P. O. Shibganj	500
4	Messrs. Jagannath Rice Mills	Ditto	500
5	Messrs. Great India Trading Corporation	Ditto	500
6	Messrs. Banka Behari and Srimanta Thakur	Bodgaon, P. O. Barsalipara	500
7	Messrs. Ramrajram Sundarprosad	P. O. Setabganj	1,000
8	Ruhea Merchants	P. O. Rohuea	500
9	Mr. Madholal Agarwala	P. O. Dinajpur	500
10	Messrs. Jagannathram Hardeo Prosad		500
11	Gafuruddin and Lal Mahammad	Charole, P. O. Lahiri	500

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us the dates of realisation of subscriptions?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether all the donors were granted receipts?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us if they have got any information whether the receipts are preserved in the office?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I suppose so.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether the sealed book was kept in the Sub-Treasury?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us why out of Rs. 22,000 collected, only Rs. 4,661 was so far spent?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Because the Committee decided that the balance should be spent on distribution of clothing and blankets.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us why it was not spent even in puchasing clothing and blankets and distributing them when people were suffering from want of clothing and blankets?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is a matter for the Food Committee to decide.

Issue of ration cards to people of Bhola.

75. SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether—

(*a*) a merchant "golder" was caught red-handed by the Civic Guards at Bhola while selling sugar at 12 annas per seer and the supply officer submitted report to the Subdivisional Officer praying for prosecution but no step has been taken by him;

(*b*) Hindus are taken to work in test relief work at Bhola;

(*c*) any ration card has been issued to the Hindus in the mufassal area of the subdivision;

(*d*) it is a fact that 30 per cent. of the Hindus of the town of Bhola have been supplied with ration cards; and

(*e*) he has been issuing ration cards indiscriminately to his servants?

MINISTER in charge of the CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) The answer to both parts of the question is in the negative.

(*b*) and (*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The exact percentage of the Hindu population to whom ration cards were issued in the town of Bhola is not known. Ration cards were, however, issued to all deserving persons, irrespective of any communal considerations, on the recommendation of a local relief committee in which Hindus formed the majority.

(*e*) No. The suggestion is baseless and the imputation is unjustified.

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: With reference to answer (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state from whom he has received this information which has made him bold enough to say that the answer to both parts of the question is in the negative?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: The information was received from the local officer.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Who is the officer?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: The Subdivisional Officer.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Is it not a fact that the conduct of the Subdivisional Officer himself was in question?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: No.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: He was released by the Subdivisional Officer.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a supplementary question. That is an argument.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the recommendation of the relief committee was not accepted and that ration cards were not issued according to the recommendations of the local relief committee but according to the whims of the Subdivisional Officer himself?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: No, I would request the honourable member to look into answer (*d*)

Khan Bahadur ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the allegation against the Subdivisional Officer that he has been issuing ration cards to his servants is mischievous and false?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Yes, it is absolutely false.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Subdivisional Officer concerned issued 14 ration cards to his servants?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: This is absolutely false and mischievous. I must tell the House that he is one of the most popular officers in the subdivision and he was——

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Mahmood, it is desirable that you at least should use milder language.

Khan Bahadur ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the same honourable member made some allegations against the Additional Magistrate that he issued ration cards?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. You are bringing in another incident which does not arise out of the present question.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who supplied him with this false statement?

Mr. SPEAKER: Why do you say it is false?

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Yes, I know positively that it is false.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not the way of putting questions; in asking question you ask for certain information.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: The reply is "the suggestion is baseless——

Mr. SPEAKER: You can take opportunities of discussing anything at the appropriate time, but now it is time for questions and answers. Certain answer has been given and you are asking "Does he know who is the man who has supplied this false information?" That shows that you know that the information is false but you are asking for information. That is not the proper way of putting questions.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: The reply is that the suggestion is baseless and the imputation is unjustified. To that my retort is that I know it is positively false.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is an argument. You cannot put questions like that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which part of the question (*a*) is answered in the negative?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: That means that the allegation regarding the selling of sugar per seer at 12 annas and secondly the allegation that the Special Officer detected it and reported—both these allegations are false.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Was the attention of the local officers invited to any incident connected with the same?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Yes, there was a vague allegation against the "golder" brothers that this company had sold sugar at 12 annas per seer instead of the controlled rate of 7 annas 3 pies per seer, but on enquiry it was found that the allegation was false.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*d*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of parties who have been given licences or ration cards for the town of Bhola?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: What do you mean by different parties?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Here the answer is the exact percentage of the Hindu population is not known.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: That is the ration cards were distributed on the recommendation of the local relief committee and that committee consisted of the majority of Hindu members and on their recommendation ration cards were distributed.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there was any deviation made by the local Subdivisional Officer in the recommendation made by the committee?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: No, Sir.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any circular or any direction was issued from the headquarters of the Civil Supplies Department or from the Writers' Buildings advising local officers to see that the communal ratio in the Services Rules be applied in the distribution of sugar as well?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: No, Sir.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: There are three parts in question (*a*)—one is "caught red-handed"—that was the report and another is the report containing the recommendation for prosecution. Which of these three parts——

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Not three parts. I have just now said that the allegation was that sugar was sold at 12 annas per seer—much higher than the controlled rate. The second allegation was that "golder" brothers as dealers were caught red-handed by the Supply Officer and a report was submitted. These two allegations are false.

Wood purchased for Carpentry Section of Bengal Government Press.

76. Mr. BIRAT CHANDRA MANDAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the quantity and value of the wood purchased each year during the last 3 years for the Carpentry Section of the Bengal Government Press;

(*b*) the particulars and the value of the goods manufactured each year out of the wood so purchased during the said period; and

(*c*) the particulars of the goods manufactured during the same period as now found in stock with their value and the surplus wood now in stock with its value?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Two statements are laid on the Library Table.

Promotion in the Bengal Government Press.

77. Mr. BIRAT CHANDRA MANDAL: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state whether—

(*i*) due consideration is given to past record, efficiency, merit and seniority of a Government employee at the time of his promotion to upper grade and post; and

(*ii*) the authorities of the Bengal Government Press, Alipore, give due weight and consideration to seniority, efficiency, merit, conduct and past record of an employee in giving promotion to higher grade and post?

(*b*) If the answers to (*a*) are in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many persons in the Bengal Government Press have been promoted to higher grade and post during the last 3 years;

(*ii*) the names of the persons so promoted with the date of their first appointment, conduct, qualification and record of service;

(*iii*) the number of cases in which claim of seniority was superseded;

(*iv*) the number of appeals against such supersessions; and

(*v*) the names of the persons so superseded with the dates of their first appointment and qualification and past record?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: (*a*) (*i*) Due consideration is given to past record, efficiency and merit and unless specifically excluded, as in the case of the Secretariat Recruitment Rules, to seniority.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) In the case of certain services Government have ruled that promotion shall be on the ground of merit and unless other considerations are equal seniority will not be taken into account.

(*c*) (*i*) Forty.

(*ii*), (*iii*) and (*v*) The collection of this information would involve an amount of time and labour quite incommensurate with its value nor indeed do I consider it to be in the public interest to publish much of the information for which the honourable member has asked.

(*iv*) Three.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

10—Forest.

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 25,43,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "10—Forest".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs 25,43,000 for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to reorganise the Forest Department with a view to better conservation and more scientific utilisation of forest resources.

Sir, among the various commercial organisations of Government the Forest Department stands in a unique position. The forest resources of this province are capable of ample development which has been recognised not only by this Government but also by the past Sir, there was a Committee appointed a few years ago and that Committee went through the question of forests in the Southern Circle and, in particular, of the West Bengal forests. The Committee in their recommendation made certain very valuable suggestions for reorganisation of the department and for steps both for conservation of forest resources as well as for better utilisation. My main grievance is that in spite of the fact that the Government are in possession of definite recomendations as a result of enquiry made by Government, nothing so far appears to have been done. The Forest Department is one of the forlorn children of Government left in charge of a comparatively junior member of the Cabinet and with all due respect to him personally he is not in a position probably to carry sufficient weight in the counsels of the Cabinet. The result is that a department which could be made use of to further the resources and to relieve the burden of taxation of this province has been allowed to go on in the usual humdrum way and, Sir, valuable suggestions made have been brushed aside. War came on and we had another brilliant opportunity for improving the income from our forests.

Our forests, broadly speaking, come under three categories. The Himalayan Range of forests and the forests in the Sundarban areas,—these two are the two broad divisions, and the third is the forest group near

Chittagong Hill Tracts. Each of these groups of forests have their own peculiar problems. Particularly in West Bengal we have the serious problem of conservation more with a view to protect soil erosion and to preserve the irrigational facilities of districts like Birbhum, Bankura and Midnapore than with a view to earn money. In the Sundarbans area similarly we have the problem of land formation and conservation as well as the problem of scientific utilisation of resources. To invite your attention to one item only the city of Calcutta consumes on an average about 10 lakh maunds of fuel alone per month and with a little imagination the entire supply could have been arranged from the forests near about in the Sundarbans area with easy river communications. We could eliminate the pressure on the railway on that account. Unfortunately little has been done in that respect and whatever was being done in the past through private efforts has had a serious set-back due firstly, to denial policy and, secondly, to the policy pursued by the Forest Department by which it has been made extremely difficult for any trader to exploit the forest resources in a scientific manner. I admit that during the last few months there has been increased attention directed towards this question more because of the difficulty in finding suitable wagon supply for bringing coal to the city, but Sir, the position has been allowed to rot to such an extent that it has become very difficult to bring about any improvement within a short time

With regard to Chittagong also, we have heard that there has been a large number of cases of good land having gone out of cultivation because of bad methods applied in felling timber and also, as our friend Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury has pointed out, large tracts which could be made use of for producing valuable produce have been allowed to lie uncultivated.

In the northern region, the Himalayan areas, we have forests of various categories capable not only of supplying timber but also other raw materials for industries like paper and also boards All these have been allowed to remain unexploited. The only impetus that the Government of Bengal have had was through the increased demand for timber from the Supply Department of the Government of India for purposes of either the constructions that have been going on of late or for *ballis*, that is, more or less for supporting timber

I submit, Sir, that with some more application of their energy to the problems and with the appointment of a few experts, Government could have not only improved their own earnings from forests, but also could have improved the possibility of employing our forest resources for the advancement of many a valuable industry.

I am afraid, the real drawback lies in the selection of persons who have been placed in charge of this work Our Forest Department appears to be an *imperium in imperio*. There have been a few selected officers who consider themselves to be experts and it is a close preserve for persons of a particular community. It is difficult for brilliant young men from Bengal to get proper opportunity in that department and there is hardly any arrangement for giving special training to our young men both here as well as in the Imperial Institute of Forest Research. The time has come, Sir, for Government to tackle the problem with some greater imagination and boldness.

In connection with the enquiries for the prevention of the havoc on the Damodar it has been revealed that conservation of forests and particularly afforestation has to be undertaken on a large scale in certain regions of West Bengal. I would like to know what steps Government have taken to see that with denudation of forests that is fast going at this time proper attention is also directed to fresh scientific afforestation, so that our resources may be utilised at the same time as fresh afforestation goes on.

With these words, I submit that Government should have a policy and programme for the utilisation of our resources and for more scientific handling of the entire situation.

Khan Bahadur HAJI BADI AHMED CHOUDHURY: মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমি——

Mr. SPEAKER: খান বাহাদুর সাহেব, সময় সংক্ষেপ : আপনি ৫ মিনিটের মধ্যে শেষ করবেন।

Khan Bahadur HAJI BADI AHMED CHOUDHURY: আমি Forest বিভাগের কাণ্ডকারখানার বিষয় আপনাদের নিকট সংক্ষেপেই বলিতেছি। (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: খুব বেশী করে বলুন, সংক্ষেপের দরকার নাই।) Forest বিভাগের সংরক্ষিত স্থানে দেশের গরীব লোক এমন কি মেয়েছেলেরা পর্য্যন্ত যাদের পাহাড়ের নিকট বাড়ী তাদের প্রয়োজনীয় লক্‌ড়ি সংগ্রহ করিয়া আনে। তারা সেখানে যে সমস্ত শুক্‌না লক্‌ড়ি আছে সেইগুলি কাটিয়া আনিয়া তাহাদের জীবিকা নির্ব্বাহ করে। সেইজন্য তাদের প্রত্যেককে মাথা পিছু চারি আনা Forest বিভাগকে দিতে হয়। কিন্তু সেই চারি আনা এমন অনেক বিধবা স্ত্রীলোক ও অনাথ শিশু আছে যাদের পক্ষে এই দুর্দ্দিনে দেওয়াটা একপ্রকার অসম্ভব। অথচ ঐ চারি আনা পয়সা আদায় করার জন্য——

Mr. SPEAKER: খান বাহাদুর সাহেব, আপনি আপনার motionটা move করেছেন কি? আচ্ছা, আপনি বলুন, পরেই move করবেন।

Khan Bahadur HAJI BADI AHMED CHOUDHURY: আচ্ছা, Sir, আমি পরেই move করবো। Forest বিভাগ হইতে ঐ চারি আনা পয়সা আদায়ের জন্য তাদের যে সমস্ত লোকজন, গার্ড প্রভৃতি আছে তাদের পিছনে যে খরচটা হয় সেটা হিসাব করলে দেখা যায় ঐ বাবদে প্রতি বৎসর তাঁরা যে incomeটা পান, ব্যয়ের সঙ্গে তুলনা করিলে দেখা যায় income অপেক্ষা ব্যয় অনেক বেশী। কোথায় কোন সময় কিছু income হইবে, সেইজন্য পূর্ব্ব হইতেই গভর্ণমেণ্ট নানাদিকে অনেক টাকা অপব্যয় করিয়া থাকেন। এদিকে গরীব লোক যাহারা রেশন অভাবে মারা গেল, তাহারা যদি জঙ্গল হইতে শুক্‌না কাঠ ভাঙ্গিয়া আনিয়া বিক্রয় করিতে পারিত তাহা হইলে তাহারা দুই বেলার স্থানে অন্ততঃ এক বেলা খাইয়াও বাঁচিতে পারিত। কিন্তু Forest বিভাগের এমনি কড়া বন্দোবস্ত যে যে কোন লোক সে যদি নাবালক শিশুও হয় যদি বিনা পয়সায় ঢোকে তাহা হইলে তাহাকে অমনি Criminal Court এ সোপর্দ্দ করা হয়। অনেকেই পেটের দায়ে ঐভাবে জেলখানায় যাইয়া হাজির হয়। তার ফলে গভর্ণমেণ্টের নানাদিক হইতে টাকা আবদ্ধ ও অপব্যয় হইয়া থাকে। আমি সেইজন্য বিভাগীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করিতেছি গরীবের জীবিকার্জ্জনের উপায় সামান্য শুক্‌না কাঠের পাহারায় অযথা লোক নিযুক্ত করিয়া খরচ বৃদ্ধি না করিয়া যাহাতে forest বিভাগের আয় বৃদ্ধি হয় সে দিকে তিনি যেন দৃষ্টি দেন। (At this stage, the allotted time being over there was the usual red light) Sir. আমাকে আর একটু সময় দিন। (Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: বলুন, বলুন।)

Mr. SPEAKER: আচ্ছা আর ২ মিনিট সময় আপনাকে দিচ্ছি—তার মধ্যে শেষ করতে হবে।

Khan Bahadur HAJI BADI AHMED CHOUDHURY: অতএব আমার অনুরোধ গভর্ণমেণ্ট আয়ের দিকে লক্ষ্য রাখিয়া যে টাকাটা আয়ের যোগ্য সে সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ বিবেচনা করিয়া Forest বিভাগের শুকনা কাষ্ঠ যাহা গরীবদের লকড়িস্বরূপে সংগ্রহ হয় তাহার উপর হইতে ট্যাক্সটা উঠাইয়া দিবেন।

ইহার পর আমি বলিতেছি forest বিভাগে গরু, মহিষ, ছাগল ইত্যাদি চরাইবার জন্য আরো একটা ট্যাক্স দিতে হয়। এবং তার জন্য অন্য ডিভিসনের কথা জানি না, চট্টগ্রামে ৮০ হাজার একর ধানের জমি বন্ধ করিয়া রাখিয়াছেন। এই যে এতগুলি জায়গা জঙ্গল করিয়া রাখিয়াছেন সেখানে কিন্তু গরু, মহিষ, ছাগল চরাবার উপায় নাই। যেই জমিগুলি Forest বিভাগের আয় বাড়াবার জন্য উক্ত বিভাগের অন্তর্ভুক্ত করিয়া গভর্ণমেণ্ট রাখিয়াছেন, সেই জমিটা যদি গভর্ণমেণ্ট পাব্লিককে ছাড়িয়া দেন, অথবা যাকে ইচ্ছা ছাড়িয়া দিয়া ধান চাষ করান, তাহা হইলে অনেক লোক এই দুর্ভিক্ষের বৎসরে খাইয়া বাঁচিতে পারিবে। আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টকে অনুরোধ করিতেছি অন্য জেলায় যা ইচ্ছা করুন, সকরিয়া সুন্দরবন এলেকায় গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে জমি গরু চরাবার জন্য রাখিয়াছেন, অতি সত্বরে এই বৎসরের মধ্যে আবাদের জন্য পাব্লিককে ছাড়িয়া দিন। এ বিষয়ে আমি আরো বলিতেছি—গরু মহিষের জন্য——

Mr. SPEAKER: আপনার time অনেক হয়ে গিয়েছে। আমি আপনাকে আর সময় দিতে পারি না।

Khan Bahadur HAJI BADI AHMED CHOUDHURY: তাহলে আমি আমার motionটা এখানে move করিতেছি।

I beg to move that the demand of Rs 16,00,000 under the head "X—Forest Receipt (1- Timber and other produce (XA and XD) —Page 16" be reduced by Rs 1,00,000 I move this in order to exempt the people from paying any fee for taking firewood from forests and for the fields for grazing goats, cattle and buffaloes.

Mr. D. C. SMYTH-OSBOURNE: Sir, I should like to know the amount that the Forest Department intend to spend on forest roads There are still areas which have not yet been worked owing to the lack of roads in the Northern Circle (Sundakhpa, Phalut and areas on the Bhutan frontier) while round Darjeeling practically all mature hard wood trees have been cut as requirements for timber and fuel have been very heavy owing to the shortage of coal.

The deforestation of the Darjeeling district is causing serious slips, washouts and subsidences on the roads. My friends in this House, I expect, have seen the slips on the main Cart Road, Siliguri-Darjeeling, at the 14th mile and the subsidence on the Teesta Valley-Kalimpong Road at the 26th mile. These slips, in my opinion, have been caused by deforestation and will, if if not stopped close both the roads to Darjeeling and Kalimpong. I do not agree with the clear felling policy in the Hill sections. Many immature hard wood trees are cut and I am sorry to say large areas of soft wood crytomaria japonica have been planted. This is of little value as timber or fuel. I trust some use may be found for these trees now planted over a large area of the Darjeeling district. They might be used for paper pulp. If clear felling is to be continued may I suggest that the area to be

felled is cut in bands round the contour of the hill, the lower area still under forest will hold up the surface soil washed down from the clear felled areas above. On main roads in the hill section if a belt of 200 feet above and below the roads is left this would stop washout and undermining of the roads. In conclusion, I should like to see more co-operation between the Forest Department, Khasmahal Department and the Communications and Works Department.

Maulvi ABDUR RAZZAK: মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমি এই প্রস্তাব সমর্থন করছি। ফেণী মহকুমা বাংলা দেশের যুদ্ধের ফ্রন্টিয়ার বলিলে অত্যুক্তি হয় না। ফেণী মহকুমার প্রায় এক-চতুর্থাংশ জমি যুদ্ধের জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট বাহাদুর একয়ার করিয়া নিয়েছেন। তাহার ফলে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক বাড়ী-ঘর ও জোত জমি হারাইয়া মাঠে-ঘাটে রোগে-শোকে অতি কষ্টে কালাতিপাত করিতেছে। যাহা কিছু ক্ষতিপূরণ দেওয়া হইয়াছিল ৪০৲ টাকা দরে চাউলের মণ ক্রয় করিয়া খাইতে তাহা শেষ হইয়া যাওয়ায় বর্ত্তমানে তাহারা মরণপথের যাত্রী হইয়া বসিয়া আছে। বাংলা সরকার তাহাদের সাহায্যের জন্য কোন টাকা বরাদ্দ করিয়াছেন বলিয়া দেখা গেল না। তাহারা নিরুপায় হইয়া ত্রিপুরার মহারাজার স্বাধীন এলাকায় পতিত জমি আবাদ করতঃ গভর্ণমেণ্টের অধিক শস্য ফলাও পরিকল্পনা অনুযায়ী কার্য্য আরম্ভ করিয়াছিল। ত্রিপুরার মহারাজা বাহাদুর নিত্য নূতন কর ধার্য্য আরম্ভ করায় চাষিগণ দিশাহারা হইয়া পড়িয়াছে। যথা প্রতি একরে ১০৲ টাকা করিয়া ধান কামানি ট্যাক্স।

Mr. SPEAKER: ওখানে কি হয়েছে না বলে বাংলা দেশের কথা বলুন।

Maulvi ABDUR RAZZAK : আমি ফেণী মহকুমার কথা বলছি, Sir, ঐ এলাকার জনসাধারণ সভা করিয়া তাহার প্রতিবাদ করিয়াছিল। গভর্ণমেণ্ট বা মহারাজ বাহাদুর এযাবৎ ইহার কোন প্রতিকার করা প্রয়োজন মনে করেন নাই। দরিদ্র কৃষক ঐ কর দিতে অক্ষম হওয়ায় বহু ধান্য পাঠাইতে পারে নাই। ঐসব ধান্য বন্য জন্তু নষ্ট করিয়াছে। তদুপরি আরও বহু ট্যাক্স যথা ঘাসুড়ি ট্যাক্স, গরু প্রতি ।।৵০ হিসাবে আদায় করিয়া থাকেন, তাহাতে গো-মহিষাদি পালন করা একেবারে বন্ধ হইয়া গিয়াছে বলিলেও চলে। আবার মহামারীতে বহু গো-মহিষাদি মারা গিয়াছে ও যাইতেছে। এই সমস্ত কারণে গো-মহিষাদির মূল্য অতি মাত্রায় বৃদ্ধি পাওয়ায় কৃষিকার্য্যের ব্যাঘাত ঘটিতেছে। নোয়াখালী District Board electionএর ভোট "কেনভাস" উপলক্ষে মাননীয় কৃষি-মন্ত্রী বাহাদুর ফেণীতে পদার্পণ করিয়াছিলেন। তদুপলক্ষে ছাগলনাইয়া ও পরশুরাম থানায় যে জনসভা আহুত করা হইয়াছিল ঐ সময় সর্ব্বসাধারণ ঐসব কার্য্য-সমূহের নিবারণার্থে আবেদন জানাইয়াছিলেন। জানি না কৃষক-দরদী মন্ত্রী বাহাদুর তাহার কোন প্রতিকার করিয়াছেন কি না। আশা করি গভর্ণমেণ্ট বাহাদুর ইহার প্রতি মনোযোগ দিবেন। গভর্ণমেণ্ট বলেন ইহা India Governmentএর কথা। তাহাই যদি হয় তাহা হইলে আশা করি India Governmentএর সহিত বোঝাপড়া করিয়া এইসব ট্যাক্স হইতে গরীবদের রেহাই দিবেন।

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Sir, the general policy and principles which should govern the management of State forests in British India were laid down in detail by the Government of India in their Circular No. 22-F., dated the 19th October, 1894, and they have since been continuing in operation. Broadly speaking, the policy of Government is to conserve all valuable forests in order to maintain local and provincial supplies of timber and fuel, and to protect the countryside against flood

and drought. The sole object with which State forests are administered is the public benefit. The exploitation of forest produce and regeneration go side by side according to prescriptions of working plans which are based on science and framed by scientific experts of the Forest Department. Repeated and presistent demands were made on the floor of the Assembly for releasing portions of reserved and protected forests, especially in the district of Chittagong, for agricultural purpose to meet the needs of the growing population and for grazing purpose but the Forest Department, as they have always followed a cautious policy of conservation, have only disafforested plots not containing valuable timber and those portions of protected forest which have been damaged beyond recovery. Although it must be admitted that some advance fellings are unavoidable at the moment to meet the abnormal and heavy demands of the Defence Services which are imperative, but the excess fellings are being regulated according to plan. Deviations from normal working plans are carefully scrutinized and specifically sanctioned before any excess felling is resorted to. A special circle has been created temporarily with a third Conservator in charge of forest utilisation, research and working plan work to ensure careful planning of advance fellings Technical Divisions, viz., Silvicultural, Working Plans and Utilisation, are integral parts of the Forest Department to look after replanting and regeneration, and planned and scientific utilisation of forest produce Conservation of forests being the main care of the department, it is out of the question to suppose that indiscriminate felling leading to anything like deforestation could be permitted It may mentioned for the information of the House that the Government of India have already been in communication with the Provincial Governments to co-ordinate a post-war policy on forest reconstruction The main features of this policy as at present suggested are (*i*) revision of working plans to provide for lighter fellings for some years to allow of the replacement of capital lost by advance fellings during the war and (*ii*) a planned economy for the timber trade and for the development of India's forest estate

The department have all along been anxious to promote the forest wealth of the province and to make arrangements for scientific utilisation of forest resources but the state of provincial finance and the abnormal situation created by the war have stood in the way. The House is well aware that a Committee was appointed to investigate into the effects of progressive denudation of forests in West Bengal and to suggest remedial measures. The report of the Committee has been received and examined but as the recommendations made therein involve major financial considerations and have important bearings on the present system of land revenue in Bengal, the present times have not been considered suitable for effecting changes involving heavy financial commitments. A departmental investigation was undertaken as to the extent of the existing forests, the areas suitable for afforestation, etc., in the district of Nadia and other adjoining districts. The report was received but the proposals for afforestation had to be kept pending till the field work undertaken by the Irrigation Department over the entire area, with a view to reclaiming the fallow lands for agriculture by a flushing scheme, was complete. The latter scheme is awaiting the arrival of better times. In recent years there has been heavy damage caused by landslides

in Kalimpong. As a preventive measure a scheme has been taken in hand for afforestation of some of the hill sides of Kalimpong, after constituting them into reserve and protected forests. An area of 173·03 acres of land has already been declared a protected forest and steps are being taken for the reservation of other areas.

Much work has been done at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, to test the practical possibilities of Bengal timber and other products for commercial and industrial use. With a view to closer liaison between forests and industry and believing that such liaison will result in practical returns of financial value, the Government of India have constituted a Central Advisory Board on forest utilisation having in its personnel one representative nominated by each Provincial Government. The functions of the Board are to advise the Forest Research Institute in the selection of problems for investigation, the initiation of such investigation as well as on the best means of making practical and beneficial use of the results of investigation. This Government have simultaneously set up a Provincial Advisory Board on forest utilisation, consisting of officials and representatives of different Chambers of Commerce and of smaller trades interested in forest produce, to examine the position of the timber and subsidiary trades in Calcutta, to advise the Central Advisory Board on the selection of the problems which require investigation in the province and to maintain contact with the timber industry of the province. The abnormal conditions created by the war have, however, stood in the way of these Utilisation Boards functioning properly and demonstrating results

Sir, Dr. Sanyal has also mentioned that we are not doing anything for bringing fuels from Sunderbans and other near forests I may tell this for the information of the House that we have taken steps and for this purpose extra coupes have been opened in the Sunderbans and any man who wants to bring any fuel from the Sunderbans is at liberty to do so. If he only goes with his boat or other conveyance he can bring as much as he can by paying a nominal rate as usual. That shows that we are doing something to bring fuels from the Sunderbans and other areas.

As regards the points raised by Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury, I would like to point out that it is not possible to permit anybody and every body to graze his cattle in the forests because in that case the forest will be destroyed and men who live near the forest are not so much literate and they do not know whether they will destroy the forest.

With regard to the prices of fuel, I would submit that prices are very nominal. We have not increased anything of the kind. In this connection I may say that the annual permit for removal of one *bhar* daily is Rs. 1-8. The monthly permit for removal of one *bhar* daily is 4 annas. Therefore the cost of removal is very cheap. Dry (in billets of not more than 5 ft. in length) per 100 c.ft. stacked—the rate is Rs. 2-4. In the reserved forests it is Rs. 2. Dry or green (one cartload daily) per cart per month—Rs. 4. Dry logs in the round per 100 c. ft.—Rs. 2-8. Green from coupes only (except Chakaria Sunderbans Reserve) in billets not more than 5 ft. in length per 100 c. ft. stacked—Rs. 2 only. The same from Chakaria Sunderbans Reserve—Rs. 3.

So, Sir, you will see that the prices are very low for bringing fuels from the forests. There is nothing for the people of the locality to complain of that they have to pay very excessively for collecting fuels from the forests. If we give unlimited power to the people of the locality near the forests, then within a short time all forests will be deforested because they will freely cut down all trees, whether good trees or bad trees. Without any discrimination they will fell all trees. Therefore, it is not possible to give free permission to the people of the locality to collect fuels from the forest.

One gentleman from the European Party said with regard to slips in the Darjeeling district. In Kalimpong and other places where there are slips we are taking necessary steps to counteract all these things. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What about afforestation?) I have said that during this period it is not possible to undertake all these things, because the Irrigation Department has also to be consulted for this purpose and it will also require large sums of money. During this period of war time when there is so much stringency of finance, it is not possible to undertake such a large-scale action for afforestation in the western part of Bengal.

With these few words I commend my motion and I hope my friends, in view of what I have said, will withdraw their motions.

Mr. SPEAKER: The demands as well as the cut motions will be put after 5 p.m. by mutual agreement of both sides—Government as well as Opposition.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It may be that if we do not divide the House we can dispose of them

Mr. SPEAKER: How am I to know whether you are going to divide or not?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All right, Sir Just as you please.

8—Provincial Excise.

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 25,20,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise".

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Mr Speaker, Sir, I suggest that the written speech which was so carefully prepared be read out first so that many cut motions may not be moved in view of what is stated therein, and then the Minister can reply to what is said

Mr. SPEAKER: That is exactly what he wanted in the other case. Yes, Mr. Barma.

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Regarding the Government's excise policy I may say that attainment of total prohibition is the ultimate goal aimed at. The House is well aware of the various formidable difficulties in the way of any prohibition measure on a large scale without adequate safeguards. The experience gained in other countries and sister provinces where large-scale prohibition was tried by penal laws before the people formed their own habit to abhor liquors and drugs, amply demonstrated that such measure would yield no appreciable result towards the desired end and, on the contrary, it would retard the pace of real prohibition by driving

consumption underground through illicit dens, etc. The supply would continue all the same through illicit channels without any restriction whatsoever in respect of price or quality affecting the health and the purse of the consuming classes most adversely.

Abundance of natural resources in this province for the manufacture of intoxicants with little or no expense and trouble, the religious susceptibilities of the aboriginal classes resident in the province and the fact that a large number of foreigners and upcountry men with a drink or drug habit are residents in the province, must be borne in mind before any prohibition law is promulgated. The advent of the war at the gate of the province has made the situation further complicated. With the war there has been a heavy influx into the province of troops from overseas countries, industrial workers of different nationalities and refugees from far eastern countries overrun by the Japanese. The province is obliged to provide for reasonable facilities for the supply of intoxicants to these foreign visitants during the present emergency.

The financial considerations involved in enforcing prohibition have also to be seriously considered. In the coming year, out of a total estimated revenue of Rs. 21,97,44,000 of the province, a sum of Rs. 3,86,42,000 is expected from Excise. The expenditure of the department has been estimated at Rs. 25,32,000 only including Rs. 6 lakhs due to the Central Government for price of opium. It would certinly be an unwise step to forego this income at the present juncture when it is definitely known that no real benefit will be brought to the people if prohibition is thrust upon them. It is therefore proposed to continue the programme of the gradual extension of prohibition by stages which has had the approval of the House.

As to the measures hitherto taken towards partial prohibition, it may be cited that all the liquor shops in the district of Noakhali were abolished as far back as in 1938. Nine out of fourteen country spirit shops in the district of Tippera and the only country spirit shop in the Sitakund area of the Chittagong district were discontinued with effect from April, 1942, as recommended by the local Licensing Boards. With a view to accelerating the progress of gradual prohibition, Government decided in the beginning of the current year to reduce the number of excise shops simultaneously in as many districts as possible in modification of their previous policy of extending partial prohibition from one selected area to another, and in pursuance of this progressive policy, altogether 101 excise licences were abolished during the current year. It is expected that in the next year's settlement further reduction will be effected. These reductions are made on the advice of the District Licensing Boards which are statutory bodies with non-official majority appointed to assess the minimum requirements of retail shops for the vend of excisable articles The recommendations of the Licensing Boards in the various districts are expected shortly, on receipt of which further reductions in the number of shops for the next year will be decided upon.

The most successful step taken in the course of this year 1943-44 to check consumption of excisable articles has been the enhancements made in the rates of taxation and the retail selling price of all excisable articles. The increases effected in the duties on the principal intoxicants have been shown

n page 14 of the Red Book. In addition to those it may be stated that the ates of duty on *bhang* have also been raised with effect from 1st December, 943, to the following extent. *Bhang* from Rs. 3-8 to Rs. 11 per seer in Calcutta, 24-Parganas and in the Burdwan Division and to Rs. 6 in the emaining areas of the province. The retail selling prices of the excisable rticles have also been increased. The price of country spirit on the 30th April, 1943, was Rs. 15-10 per gallon. It was increased to Rs. 21 on the 1st May, 1943; it was again raised to Rs. 27-8 on the 1st August, 1943. The price of *ganja* per seer was Rs. 105 on the 30th April, 1943; it was raised Rs. 120 on the 1st May, 1943; and it was again raised to Rs. 150 on the 1st August, 1943; it was then raised to Rs. 180 on the 1st December, 1943. The price of opium per seer was Rs. 160 on the 30th April, 1943; it was raised to Rs. 180 on the 1st May, 1943; it was again raised to Rs. 225 on the 1st December, 1943. The price of *bhang* per seer was Rs. 22-8 on the 30th April, 1943; it was raised to Rs. 30 on the 1st December, 1943, in Calcutta, 24-Parganas and in Burdwan Division and Rs. 25 in the rest of the province. This increase in taxation has also been particularly successful as an anti-inflationary measure in the withdrawal of surplus purchasing power from those to whom the war has given greatly increased earnings and who would have otherwise very largely escaped taxation.

An explanation in regard to the expected increase in the Exercise revenue during the current year may perhaps be given The net revenue for the year 1942-43 was Rs. 2,53,64,532, whereas the revised estimate for the current year has been placed at Rs. 3,65,47,000 showing an increase of Rs. 1,11,82,468. Of this increase, country spirit will account for Rs. 63½ lakhs wine and spirits for Rs. 38½ lakhs, opium, for Rs. 4½ lakhs and hemp and other drugs for Rs. 16 lakhs. Taking into account the anticipated decreases in the receipts from country fermented liquors and malt liquors and other miscellaneous heads, the total estimated increase has been placed at the abovementiond figure of Rs. 1,11,82,468. The Hon'ble Finance Minister already explained in presenting the budget to the House that the large increase is expected in view of the steep but judicious upgrading of the rates of excise taxation and that with the increase in revenue there has been little or no increase in consumption. In support of his statement, he gave the figures of consumption and revenue from country spirit for the period from May to December, 1943. In supplement to those figures I like to give the comparative figures of consumption and revenue for the period from May, 1942, to January, 1943, and from May, 1943, to January, 1944. Sir, the comparative figures are these: During the period from May to January, 1942-43, the consumption of country spirit was 882,125 L.P. gallons and the revenue was Rs. 88,51,137 and during the corresponding period of 1943-44 the consumption was 655,564 L.P. gallons, i.e., consumption less by 226,561 L.P. gallons and revenue during this corresponding period was Rs. 1,47,98,798, i.e., an increased revenue of Rs. 59,47,661.

The consumption of opinion during these two periods was 24,966 seers and 21,321 seers, i.e., there was a decrease of consumption of 3,645 seers and revenue from opium during these two periods was Rs. 32,96,922 and Rs. 35,77,706, i.e., an increase of Rs. 2,80,784. We have taken all possible

steps to bring about prohibition in this province. As it is not possible to achieve this by legislation all at once, we have to do so gradually in order that people may be able to give up their drinking habits.

With these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Maulvi WALIUR RAHMAN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 25,20,000 for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise" be reduced by Rs. 100.

My object in moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government in introducing prohibition at least among the rural people.

আমার উদ্দেশ্য হচ্চে এই যে অন্ততঃ (rural people) পল্লীগ্রামের লোক যাতে কোন রকম মাদকদ্রব্য ব্যবহারের সুবিধা বা সুযোগ না পায় তার ব্যবস্থা করা গভর্ণমেণ্টের উচিত ছিল। Hon'ble Ministerএর যে বাজেট speech আছে তার মধ্য হতে দেখা যায় যাতে consumption কমে, duty বাড়ে রেভিনিউ বেশী হয় সেই আশা তিনি করেন। তাঁর মনে মনে হয়তো এই ভাবটা ছিল যে prohibition দরকার কারণ এই মাদকদ্রব্য যদি জনসাধারণের মধ্যে চলে সেটা দেশের ও সমাজের পক্ষে হবে গুরুতর ক্ষতিকর কিন্তু প্রকৃত-পক্ষে তাদের Policy কি তা জানি না। এর পূর্ব্বে যখন এদিকের ministry ছিল তখন তাঁদের উদ্দেশ্য ছিল prohibition করতে হবে। কিন্তু সেই Prohibitionএর সম্বন্ধে কোন উল্লেখ নাই দেখে বোঝা যায় যে তাদের এটা স্বীকার্য্য যে price অবশ্য যখন চড়েছে, তখন consumption কমে যেয়ে revenue বেড়ে যাবে। Revenue বাড়াব মতন ভাবে যদি কাজ করা হয় তাহলে সেটা খুব ভাল policy নয়। Rural areaতে দেখা যায় যে পল্লীর লোকের পক্ষে মাদকদ্রব্য একটা আবশ্যক বস্তু নয়, এটা সম্পূর্ণ ভাবেই সহরের লোকের, বিলাসী লোকের পক্ষে আবশ্যকীয় জিনিষ। এবং চালাতে হলে এটা একমাত্র সহরেই যেখানে বিলাসিতা বিদ্যমান এবং টাকার ছড়াছড়ি,—সেখানেই চলতে পারে। বিভিন্ন দেশের বিভিন্ন রুচির লোক এসে যেখানে অবস্থান করে সেখানে মাদকদ্রব্যের প্রয়োজনীয়তা থাকলেও থাকতে পারে। কিন্তু পাড়াগাঁয়ে যেখানে অর্থাভাবে, অন্নবস্ত্রাভাবে লোক হাজারে হাজারে মারা যাচ্ছে সেখানে কোন ক্রমেই revenue বাড়াবার জন্য এ জিনিষ থাকবার কোন প্রয়োজনীয়তা আছে বলে আমার মনে হয় না। আমাদের দেশের মুচি, বুনো, জেলে প্রভৃতি জাতীয় লোক সমস্ত দিনের উপার্জন সন্ধ্যা বেলায় মাদকদ্রব্যের দোকানে নষ্ট ক'রে ফেলে রাত্রি বেলায় পরিবারস্থ স্ত্রীপুত্র প্রভৃতি নিয়ে অনাহারে রয়েছে এরকম ঘটনা বিরল নয়। এরূপ ঘটনা আমার নিজের চোখে দেখা ব্যাপার। বহু কষ্টে যা কিছু সামান্য পয়সা জোগাড় আসে মুহূর্ত্তের ভ্রমে নেশার বশবর্ত্তী হয়ে নিজের এবং সমস্ত পরিজনবর্গের অশেষ কষ্টের কারণ হয়। যেখানে লোক সব ম্যালেরিয়ায় ভুগে মৃত্যুমুখে পতিত হচ্চে, এখনো পর্য্যন্ত অন্নবস্ত্র ও ঔষধের ব্যবস্থা গরীবেরা ক'রতে পারছে না সেখানে লোকের সম্মুখে একটা প্রলোভনের বস্তু রাখা ঠিক হবে না। আমি আশা করি,—পল্লীগ্রামের বাজারে মাদকদ্রব্যের যত দোকান আছে সেগুলি অন্ততঃ পক্ষে abolish করার policy বর্ত্তমান সরকার কর্ত্তৃক গ্রহণ করা হবে। আমার মনে হয় এ বিষয়ে কারো কোন আপত্তি হবে না। আমি Advisory Committeeতে—(At this stage the member having reached the time limit resumed his seat.)

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 25,20,000 for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to undertake any definite and material scheme of prohibition.

Sir, it is undoubtedly an achievement of the Muslim League Ministry of Bengal that Bengal has been plunged into a flood-tide of drinks and drugs and the revenue receipts under this head have mounted to a level that was never reached before. It is well known, Sir, that the head "Excise" was the third large source of our revenue. The largest source of our provincial revenue was "Land Revenue" and next to that was "Stamps" and "Excise" occupied the third place. It must have been noticed by honourable members that this year in the budget before us "Excise" is expected to yield the largest revenue, larger than "Land Revenue" and a larger amount than "Stamps". It has come to occupy the first place and to use one of Macaulay's expressions "eclipse is" now "the first and the rest nowhere". Sir, we find that the revenue has not only enlarged, but the old plea of the Government that the policy of the Government was to seek maximum revenue consistent with minimum consumption has broken down It is not only the revenue that has increased but consumption has increased by leaps and bounds. Sir, let me first of all treat the question of the development of receipts under this head. The following figures will reveal how the receipts have developed and will also show that so far as Bengal is concerned "Excise" revenue has increased at a much larger rate than in the other provinces and in fact beyond all proportions. In 1936-37 our receipts under head "Excise" were Rs. 136 lakhs and in 1941-42 for which the actuals are available the receipts mounted up to Rs 188 lakhs, that is, the receipts increased by Rs. 52 lakhs in 5 years, not to speak of larger receipts in later years.

What was, Sir, the increase in the other provinces? These are the figures so far as I have been able to gather them In Bombay the "Excise" receipts were at the inception of the new Reforms, namely, in 1936-37, Rs. 325 lakhs and in 1941-42, that is, in five years, the Bombay receipts under the head "Excise" came down to Rs. 271 lakhs, that is, the receipts went down by Rs 54 lakhs. In the United Provinces in 1936-37 the "Excise" receipts were Rs. 153 lakhs and, Sir in course of the first five years of the new Reforms, i.e., by 1941-42, the "Excise" revenue went down to Rs 149 lakhs, no increase in revenue,—but decrease by Rs. 4 lakhs. In the Central Provinces in 1936-37, "Excise" receipts were Rs. 64 lakhs and in the same five years of the new Reforms the receipts increased only by Rs. 3 lakhs, and came up to Rs. 67 lakhs in 1941-42. It shows that it is in Bengal only that there has been an unprecedented increase in "Excise" receipts To what that is due? That is due largely to the introduction of a cheaper variety of liquor during the new regime. It will thus be seen that the Government of Bengal is after earning as much revenue as possible from this tainted source. Now, Sir, the Government professes that although it has increased the revenue, the consumption has gone down. That has been the cry of Government since the inception of the present Reforms. In 1938 the Minister in charge of Revenue, the exponent of the "Excise" policy of the first autonomous Government, told us that the Muslim League Government may be permitted to maintain the policy of minimum consumption with maximum revenue.

"The present policy aims at" he said "an effective restriction which serves the cause of temperance by limiting consumption to the minimum requirements". So it was advertised that the policy of the Muslim League Government was to secure the minimum of consumption and the maximum of revenue. Then, again, in 1939 we were fed with the story by the then Excise Minister that whatever may be the Government's policy "they are giving their best thought to the matter and will not hesitate to extend prohibition gradually to other districts", that is, districts other than Noakhali, "if it is possible and feasible". They were anxious even then to extend prohibition. That was in 1939. In 1940, again, the policy was enunciated as follows: "The Government of Bengal followed a policy of maximum revenue with minimum of consumption, the end in view being to restrict consumption". Then, again, in 1941, the policy was stated in the very first line of the speech of the Excise Minister as follows: "The policy of the Government .....(Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: That was not a fact. The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: "Who was the Minister"? Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT: You ought to know that at least). "The policy of the Government is the gradual enforcement of total prohibition throughout the province". But, Sir, when in 1939 I introduced the Bengal Prohibition Bill, the Bill was turned down with the assertion that Government stood for prohibition no doubt, but the prohibition should be gradual. Since then we have heard nothing about prohibition far less about extension of prohibition gradual or otherwise. Prohibition remains confined to Noakhali, the smallest district in Bengal.

Now, what are the consumption figures? Let me take a long period, Sir, for the purpose of comparison. Since the introduction of the Minto-Morley Reforms up till 1941-42, that is, for a period of more than a quarter of a century, I am comparing the figures of consumption With regard to country spirit in 1911-12 the consumption in Bengal was 796,784 gallons. By 1936-37, that is, just before the introduction of the present Reforms, just before the Muslim League Government came into power in Bengal, the consumption of country spirit went down to 364,589 gallons; that is, it came down to less than one-half of that of 1911-12. And what is the figure now? The present figure—and I am now giving the figure for 1941-42 of which the actual figure is available—the Excise Minister has admitted it also in his opening speech, consumption mounted up to 820,349 gallons in 1941-42; that is, it went beyond the figure of 1911-12. It shows that the progress that had been made during all those years from 1911-12 to 1936-37, i.e., in course of a quarter of a century was absolutely undone and not only that, Sir, but the consumption had in fact gone up beyond the figure of 1911-12. This is the achievement, Sir, of the Muslim League Ministry that stands by the Shariat!

Sir, when I said that consumption has increased and definitely increased, the Excise Minister had the hardihood to question "consumption", as if, Sir, he was taken aback. I may again tell him that consumption did not increase but steadily decreased during the previous regime but it has definitely increased and increased beyond the figure of 1911-12 during the first five years of the Muslim League Ministry that is, the whole improvement made in 25 years was done away within a quinquennium.

As regards *ganja*, in 1936-37, that is, just before the introduction of the present Reforms and the advent of the Muslim League Ministry, the consumption of *ganja* in the province was 33,853 seers. What was the figure reached in the course of the next five years? In 1941-42 in pursuance of the much advertised policy of securing less consumption it went up to 38,460 seers; that is, by about five thousand seers more. In five years the consumption of *ganja* in Bengal increased by about five thousand seers during the administration of Muslim League Ministry.

Then, Sir, about opium. In 1936-37, before the advent of the League Ministry, the consumption of opium in Bengal amounted to 25,666 seers and the consumption of opium went up during the first five years of the new Reforms, that is, by 1941-42, to 28,298 seers, that is, by about 3,000 seers. Sir, that is the whole history of the administration of "Excise" by the Muslim League Government of Bengal. Sir, I know how comparisons are made by the department. The department select particular years of recent times to compare and feed the public with the conclusions drawn from chosen figures, and that they do only to delude the public. If you compare the figures over a comparatively long period, you will see that during the administration of the Muslim League Government, Bengal has been thrown, as I said before, into a flood-tide of drinks and drugs. That is the great achievement of the Muslim League Ministry in Bengal.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I beg of you to permit me a bit of a digression? There is a difference of opinion about the age of the honourable and learned Leader of the Opposition. Some say it is 71 and some say it is 74, but there is no doubt that he has passed his 72nd year, and in connection with that, Sir, we have heard the news today that——

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: May we know, Sir, what he is aiming at?

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, I do not think you of all people should bring in this matter at all. Well, I have heard about this also, but it is not necessary to bring it in here. We are discussing "Excise".

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: My only object in bringing in——

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: On a point of order. What business has he got to refer to the age and all these things in connection with "Excise". Is he under excise?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I was going to congratulate——

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Siddiqi, that has got nothing to do with the business of the House which is before us. Will you kindly speak on "Excise" demand and the cut motions?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think it is a convention of the House to exchange felicitations——

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already said it is not the occasion.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, I have listened with attention to the speeches made by gentlemen opposite. The bogey of the Muslim League has definitely become an obsession with gentlemen opposite and on that account the presentation of the case has not been altogether disinterested. I was expecting that figures would also be given for the sixteen months in which the Muslim League was out of office.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: On a point of personal explanation, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you on a point of order?

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, he is criticising----

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a personal matter. Yes, Mr. Siddiqi, you go on.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, I was waiting for those figures. I have, in my own way, found out that the income has gone up while consumption has gone down by 2 lakhs and more gallons. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: No.) Sir, presentation of a case in this manner leads us nowhere. The name of the Muslim League was mentioned almost half a dozen times. I wish this were a Muslim League Government. It is not. The King of the country is a Christian and the law of the country is not Islamic (cries of "hear, hear" from the Coalition Party benches), but if honourable members opposite had followed the principle laid down by the honourable and learned Leader of the Opposition when he had said that he would follow the same principle in the matter of prohibition as had been laid down by the Qur'an and by the Messenger of Allah. We were first asked not to approach the mosque for prayer while in a state of intoxication and then gradually the drinking of alcohol was totally forbidden.

A point which speakers on the side opposite have deliberately not mentioned is the fact that foreign liquor has almost ceased to be imported and to that much extent people who are addicted to alcohol have begun to drink alcohol prepared in this country. In spite of this change in the general situation due mainly to war it is a happy sign of the time that the present Council of Ministers has been able to reduce the drinking of alcohol by almost 2 lakh and 58 or 52 thousand gallons. That again is a point which was not mentioned.

Another aspect of the problem which perhaps escaped the vigilant attention of honourable members opposite is a fact which should not have escaped their vigilance or attention. The presence of alcohol drinking soldiers in Bengal today is high and despite all the efforts of temperance associations, I am afraid they will have to agree that there may be a slight curve upwards in the drinking of alcohol, but if they do want to know what the Muslim mind likes to do, I would most earnestly beg of them to consider that even if this is a Muslim League Government we have got to consider the position of those people to whom alcohol is not forbidden. Idealistically prohibition and efforts at temperance are real steps in the right direction and yet despite the figures that have been given to us tonight, I am certain that crimes under the excise law have increased in the areas of which we were given statistics. I have not got the exact figures before me, but I have heard it said in reliable quarters and in authoritative circles that distillation in a clandestine manner has increased all over India and

specially in areas where the Congress Government and later on Governments under section 93 were functioning. I have nothing further to say except to remove the impression from the minds of gentlemen opposite that a man would not be a Muslim if he did not follow the line of prohibition for himself, but these very gentlemen will perhaps shout and shout us down if we started to use compulsion on people who are not forbidden by their religion to drink alcoholic liquor. I hope the Muslim League theory will not be attached to prohibition as has been tonight. When they were in office, they could do nothing and after they went out of office the war situation has made the progressive realisation of prohibition more and more difficult. But I can promise to the gentlemen opposite that no stone will be left unturned to go on progressively reducing the drinking of alcohol and increasing the income from it as has been done during the very short period the present Council of Ministers, which is not a Muslim League Ministry, has been in office.

Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Sir, I rise to oppose both the cut motions. If we analyse the grievances of my honourable friends who have moved their motions, it will appear that the grievance of one is that Government have failed to undertake any definite material scheme of prohibition, while that of the other is that they have failed to introduce prohibition at least amongst rural people.

It is one thing to manipulate figures and base the arguments on manipulated figures and another thing to try to convey to the House that Government have not taken any steps to bring down consumption. I submit, Sir, that it is a rather fallacious argument. While presenting the demand to the House the Hon'ble Minister has made it clear that the policy of the present Government is one of gradual prohibition. Therefore, whilst trying to reduce consumption of liquor they must not forget that they must have more money to meet the demands, the growing demands, of the people of this province from various quarters. Sir, my honourable friend, Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri, has given us many figures, but he has not said as to what has happened to the price and how the income of the province has increased by increasing the prices which are under the definite control of Government. So far as rural areas are concerned, Government have taken a definite decision by which cheap liquor has practically been stopped in those areas, except, of course, in places which border Bihar where outstill cheap liquor is sold.

My honourable friend, Maulvi Waliur Rahman, gave us an instance of how the hill tribes and the poor *mnchis* whatever they earn during the day spend in the evening enjoying a drink. I wish he had known the habits of these people who have come into this unfortunate province of ours for earning their bread and working for us. I wish he had moved in the hills and had seen why these people who have come from Bihar or the Central Provinces or those who work in the hills take liquor. They do not take the liquor only as a matter of fun, but they take it as part of their food. They cannot work unless they have some sort of drink. It is not correct to say that nothing has been done by Government to reduce consumption. In this connection I want to draw the attention of the House to the step that has been taken by Government that every year the number of excise shops is being decreased, in various places in the province. Then

again, Sir, to keep an effective control over the supplies, Government have started Licensing Boards in the districts and subdivisions composed mostly of representatives of non-officials of those places, and no new shop can be started unless a request is made by the Licensing Boards and approved by the Collector and perhaps higher authorities for this purpose. So far as the prices are concerned you will be pleased to find that for a pint of cheap liquor the price has gone up from four annas six pies to 10 annas, while the price of a gallon has gone up from Re. 1-15 to Rs. 6-2. The income must have gone up because of the increased price of cheap liquor. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: And also because of consumption.) So far as consumption is concerned, I have in my hand by the courtesy of a friend of mine a chart which will show what happened in 1942 to 1944. I submit that in September, 1942, the consumption was over one lakh gallons against only 65,000 gallons in September, 1943. The present Ministry came into office in April, 1943, and the consumption was brought down by 716,000 gallons. The duty has also been increased. The result has been that today in February, 1944, the consumption has gone down to 62,000 gallons and the revenue has gone up to Rs. 19 lakhs. That only shows the vigilant attitude that has been taken by the present Government which is keeping to their promise of bringing down the consumption to the minimum, while keeping to the maximum amount of revenue that can be obtained for this province so that the demand from various sides with regard to the urgency or the necessity of this province can be met. (A VOICE FROM THE OPPOSITION: What about *ganja*?) *Ganja* is left to you. I am sorry that my honourable friend Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri has not mentioned, while stating that the consumption has increased, the influx of people into this province from other provinces. In the city of Calcutta we have seen that the population has gone up from about 13 to 14 lakhs to about 40 lakhs. My honourable friend, Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, has pointed out to the House how the consumption of country liquor has increased even amongst those who do not belong to this country at all. That being the position I submit respectfully that there is a definite policy taken by Government that prohibition must be aimed at, but it must be gradual and it cannot be adopted so soon as it is suggested or perhaps presumed. I submit, therefore, that there is no point whatsoever in either of the motions moved by my honourable friends and I have no other alternative but to oppose both of them.

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, মাদকদ্রব্য দেশের পক্ষে যে একটা সর্বনাশকর জিনিষ এটা সর্ববাদীসম্মত। ধর্মের দিক দিয়ে যদি আমরা দেখি, মুসলমান হিসাবে,—মাদকদ্রব্য হোতে দূরে থাকতে প্রত্যেক মুসলমানই বাধ্য। ইস্‌লাম ধর্মে মাদকদ্রব্য মদ, গাঁজা, ভাং ইত্যাদি স্পর্শ করাও হারাম। এমন কি মাদকদ্রব্য সম্বন্ধে চিন্তা করাও ইস্‌লামের মতে হারাম।

আজকাল দেশের মধ্যে অনেক জায়গায় মদ্যনিবারণী সমিতি ইত্যাদি দ্বারা এবং অন্যান্য গণ আন্দোলন দ্বারা মাদকদ্রব্য দেশের ভিতর থেকে উঠিয়ে দেবার উদ্দেশ্যে আন্দোলন আরম্ভ হয়েছে। এইসব আন্দোলনের দ্বারা সুস্পষ্টভাবে প্রমাণিত হয় যে দেশের জনসাধারণ দেশের বুকের উপর থেকে মাদকদ্রব্য উঠিয়ে দেবার জন্যে ব্যস্ত। কিন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্ট এ বিষয়ে এখনো পর্য্যন্ত মনোযোগ দেন নাই, এবং জনমতের প্রতিও সম্পূর্ণ উদাসীন। এই উদাসীনতার ফলে যে অনিষ্টটা হচ্চে সেটা দেশের পক্ষে অত্যন্ত ক্ষতিকর।

আর এক দিক দিয়ে দেখ্‌লে আপনারা নিশ্চয়ই স্বীকার করবেন যে বাংলা দেশের বহু বড় বড় হিন্দু এবং মুসলমান জমিদার ও মহাজন ও ঐশ্বর্য্যশালী পরিবার এই মাদকদ্রব্যের কবলে পড়ে তাদের কত সমৃদ্ধিসম্পন্ন সম্পদ নষ্ট হয়েছে এবং ধ্বংস হয়ে গেছে। এক সময় যারা বহু সম্পদশালী ও রাজা বা নবাব ছিলেন বর্ত্তমানে তাঁদের ছেলেমেয়ে পথের ভিখারী। মাতাল বড়লোকদের দেখাদেখি মধ্যবিত্ত ও শ্রমিকদের ভিতরেও (MR. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS : এখানেও দৃষ্টান্ত আছে Treasury Benchএ, laughter) সংক্রামক ব্যাধির ন্যায় এই রোগ প্রবেশ করিয়াছে। যারা বেশী দাম দিয়ে মদ খেতে পারে না, আপনারা মফঃস্বলে ও মফঃস্বল সহরে ও বাজারে গেলে দেখ্‌তে পাবেন, যারা দৈনিক মাত্র ।৵৹ আনা ।।০ আনা রোজগার করে তারাও আজ চণ্ডু, ভাং আফিং বা গাঁজার দোকানে গিয়ে নিজের পরিজন, পুত্রকন্যার কথা ভুলে গিয়ে সব উপার্জন এক মুহূর্ত্তে শেষ করে দিয়ে রিক্তহস্তে বাড়ী ফিরে দেখে যে স্ত্রী-পরিজন ছেলেমেয়ে অভুক্ত অবস্থায় তাহার অপেক্ষায় রহিয়াছে। এ অবস্থায় মাদক-দ্রব্যের নিবারণ অতি শীঘ্রই হওয়া চাই। মাদকদ্রব্যের অনিষ্টকারিতার বিষয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন বিশেষভাবেই হৃদয়ঙ্গম করবেন, মুখে তিনি আমাকে সমর্থন না করলেও মনে মনে তিনি আমার সঙ্গে একমত না হয়ে পারেন না। মাদকদ্রব্যের কবলে ঢাকা পরিবারের কি যে অনিষ্ট হচ্ছে সেটা সকলের চেয়ে তারাই বেশী জানেন (hear, hear)। মানুষ হিসাবে যদি কেবল মনঘাতের দিক দিয়াই আপনারা চিন্তা করেন তাহলেও মাদকদ্রব্য নিবারণ না করে পারা যাবে না। মাদকদ্রব্যের অনিষ্টকারিতা এই বিংশ শতাব্দীতে সকল সভ্য দেশই স্বীকার করছেন। যদি আপনারা ইউরোপের ও আমেরিকার পত্রিকা পড়েন দেখবেন,—সে সকল দেশে মাদকদ্রব্যের বিরুদ্ধে প্রবল আন্দোলন আরম্ভ হয়েছে। এ অবস্থায়, সভ্যতা, সমাজনীতি, রাজনীতি, ধর্ম্ম-নীতি ও মনুষ্যত্ব সকল দিক দিয়েই দেশকে যদি আমরা ভালবাসি, দেশবাসীদের প্রতি যদি আমাদের দরদ থাকে, তাহলে এটা আমরা নিবারণ না ক'রে পারি না।

Sir, ইতিমধ্যে এই পরিষদের ভিতরেই মাদকদ্রব্য prohibition না হওয়ার একটা জলন্ত কুফল দেখা গেছে। মুলুকে ফারেছের জনৈক ইস্পাহান দেশীয় (hear, hear, no personal attack, noise, interruption) ভদ্রলোকের নেশার উৎপাতে পরিষদ সদস্যগণ অস্থির হয়ে পড়েছিল। এ জিনিষটার যদি prohibition হতো তাহলে এই পরিষদ ওরকম উৎপাত হতে রক্ষা পেত। এই সকল বিষয় অনুধাবন করে আমরা আশা করতে কি পারি না যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট দেশের মধ্যে থেকে মাদক দ্রব্য উঠিয়ে দিয়ে দেশবাসীর চরিত্র রক্ষা করার জন্য সচেষ্ট হবেন? (The member having reached his time-limit there was the usual red light.)

Sir, আমি salt সম্বন্ধে একটু বলার জন্য আর দু' মিনিট সময় চাই।

Mr. SPEAKER: I can allow you only one minute.

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI: Saltটা Government of Indiaর অধীন। বঙ্গোপসাগর, পদ্মা, মেঘনা প্রভৃতি লবণাক্ত জলবিশিষ্ট নদীর ধারের লোকদের নিজ প্রয়োজনীয় লবণ এবং যতটা নিজে মাথায় কোরে অন্য জায়গায় নিতে পারে তত পরিমাণ লবণ তৈয়ারী Government of India তাদের জন্য allow কোরেছেন, কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় এই যে Provincial Governmentএর আবগারী দারোগারা অন্যায়মতে তাদের লবণ তৈয়ার ক'রতে বাধা দেয়, এবং তাদের কাছ থেকে ঘুষ আদায় করে ও নানা রকম অত্যাচার করে, বিশেষ কোরে দেখা যায় যে নোয়াখালী প্রভৃতি জায়গায় অনেক অত্যাচার করেছে। এতৎপ্রতি গভর্ণমেণ্ট অবহিত হউন।

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: After what Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi and Mr. Mullick have said, Sir, I think I have nothing to add. The one important question is whether during the regime of the present Ministry the consumption has gone down or not. I have already shown by facts and figures that consumption of country spirit has gone down by 25 per cent. and that of opium has gone down by 14 per cent. Under the previous Ministry the consumption was higher but the Minister in charge did not take any steps to reduce that increase. Another thing that I should like to say is that during the previous Ministry Government adopted the policy of prohibition in certain limited regions only but we have extended it to larger areas. I may mention that a number of shops has been closed down in almost every district of Bengal as will be evident from the statement I am going to make just now about the number of excise licences abolished in each of the districts of Bengal with effect from 1st April, 1943, namely, Burdwan 1, Birbhum 4, Bankura 6, Midnapore 14, Hooghly 6, 24-Parganas 1, Calcutta 9, Nadia 1, Jessore 2, Khulna 4, Dacca 8, Mymensingh 8, Faridpur 4, Bakarganj 5, Chittagong 3, Rajshahi 2, Jalpaiguri 4, Rangpur 5, Pabna 3, Bogra 2, Malda 4 and Darjeeling 5. The total comes to 101 shops which have been abolished, whereas during the previous Ministry only one or two shops were abolished in Noakhali only.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: How many new shops have been opened?

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Not a single one.

At the same time, Sir, for the next year also we are receiving recommendations for the abolition of more shops and we have already received recommendations for the abolition of 24 shops for next year. Sir, we are trying our utmost to abolish as many shops as possible with a view to reducing consumption.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will first put the cut motions relating to the demand under the head "10—Forest" and then the main demand for "Forest" and then I will come to "Provincial Excise".

10—Forest.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 25,43,000 for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 25,43,000 for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Premhari Barma that a sum of Rs. 25,43,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "10—Forest", was then put and agreed to.

8—Provincial Excise.

The motion of Maulvi Waliur Rahman that the demand of Rs. 25,20,000 for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise" be reduced by Rs. 100 which was moved to raise a discussion about the failure of the

Government to introduce prohibition at least among the rural people, was then put and a division taken with the following results:—

AYES—92.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi.
Abdul Jabbar Palwan, Mr. Md.
Abdul Kader, Mr. (alias Lal Meah).
Abdul Majid, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Asimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Badi Ahmed Choudhury, Khan Bahadur Haji.
Badruddoja, Mr. Syed.
Banerjee, Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Barman, Mr. Upendra Nath.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhawmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das, Babu Radhanath.
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.
Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath.
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Edbar, Mr. Upendranath.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Fazlul Huq, Mr. A. K.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Golam Rabbani Ahammad, Maulvi.
Golam Sarwar Hosaini, Mr. Shah Syed.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Alhadj.
Habibullah, Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Syed.
Jalan, Mr. I. D.
Jenab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Lahiri, Babu Ashutosh.
Mahtab, Maharajadhiraja Bahadur Uday Chand, of Burdwan.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hosain, Mr.
Mookerjee, Dr. Syamaprasad.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Muhammad Solaiman, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mukerji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan.
Mukherji, Dr. H. C.
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra.
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh.
Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi.
Nandy, Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Paul, Sir Hari Sanker.
Poddar, Mr. Anadilal.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna.
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
Roy, Mr. Manamtha Nath.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Roy, Shib Shekhareswar, Kumar.
Sanaullah, Dr.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Sen, Jogesh Chandra, Rai Bahadur.
Sen Gupta, Mrs. Nellie.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Shamsul Huda, Maulana.
Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan.
Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar.
Thakur, Mr. Pramatha Ranjan.
Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.
Yousuf Mirza.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

NOES—109.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Jabbar, Maulvi.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed (Noakhali).
Abdul Metaleb Malik, Dr.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Abdulla-Al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr.
Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rashed, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Maulvi S. (Howrah).
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah (Rangpur).
Abdus Shahed, Maulvi Md.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Masud, Kazi.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Alhazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Barma, the Hon'ble Mr. Premhari.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Chakrabarty, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Chakrabarty, Babu Narendra Narayan.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Das, Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Das, Mr. Manmohan.

Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Gladding, Mr. D., C.I.E.
Gomes, Mr. R. A.
Goswami, the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra.
Griffiths, Mr. C.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E.
Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Haywood, Mr. Rodgers.
Hendry, Mr. David.
Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H., M.B.E.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
McPherson, Mr. G. P.
Mafizuddin Ahamed, Dr. (Bogra).
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib Maulvi (Tippera).
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal, the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Abdul Halim Molla, Mr.
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Mukerjea, the Hon'ble Mr. Tarakanath, M.B.E.
Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Pulin Behary.
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Mustaqawsal Haque, Mr. Syed.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.
Noorudin, Mr. K.
Norton, Mr. H. R., M.B.E.
Pain, the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prasanna.
Powell, Mr. J. A.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Sahebe-Alam, Mr. Syed.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Shahedali, Mr.
Singha, Babu Kshetra, Nath.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Skipwith, Mr. W. E.
Smart, Mr. J. N.
Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Stevenson, Mr. R. A. H.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Thorman, Mr. C. M.
Walker, Mr. J. R.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M., C.B.E.
Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C.I.E.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.
Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi.

The Ayes being 92, and the noes 109 the motion was lost.

(The result was greeted by table thumping and cries of "shame, shame", and "resign, resign" from the Opposition Benches.)

The motion of Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri that the demand of Rs. 25,20,000 for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Premhari Barma that a sum of Rs. 25,20,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise", was then put and agreed to.

13—Other Taxes and Duties.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 6,92,400 be granted for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties".

Maulvi MAQBUL HOSSAIN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 6,92,400 for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to give relief to the poorer classes from operation of Sales Tax.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, বাংলার মন্ত্রিসভা দরিদ্র জনসাধারণকে এই বিক্রয় করের আওতা হইতে অব্যাহতি দিতে অসমর্থ হওয়ায় আমি এই ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করিতেছি। ১৯৪১ সনের ৬ই ফেব্রুয়ারী মাননীয় মিঃ সোহরাওয়ার্দী সাহেব এই বিক্রয় কর বিল আইনে পরিণত করার জন্য যখন উপস্থিত করেন তখন আমরা তীব্র প্রতিবাদ করিয়াছিলাম। আমরা জানাইয়াছিলাম যে

যদি এই বিল আইনে পরিণত করা হয় তাহা হইলে দরিদ্র জনসাধারণ অত্যন্ত ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হইবে। আমরা জানাইয়াছিলাম যে আমরা এই প্রকার ট্যাক্সের সম্পূর্ণ বিরোধী। কারণ গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রথমে কোন ট্যাক্সের পরিমাণ প্রথমাবস্থায় কম থাকিলেও ক্রমানুয়ে তা বর্দ্ধিত করে দরিদ্র জনসাধারণকে শোষণ করতে দ্বিধা করেন না। উত্তরে মাননীয় সোহরাওয়ার্দ্দী সাহেব বলেছিলেন এই বিক্রয় কর উচচ স্তরের ধনিক বণিকদের নিকট হইতে আদায় করিয়া জাতিগঠনমূলক কার্য্যে ব্যয় করা হবে। দরিদ্র জনসাধারণকে এই ট্যাক্সের আওতা হইতে রেহাই দেওয়া হইবে। কিন্তু আমরা কি দেখিতেছি? যদিও গভর্ণমেণ্ট এই কর ব্যবসায়ীদের নিকট হইতে আদায় করেন, কিন্তু ব্যবসায়িগণ এই বিক্রয় করের সম্পূর্ণ অর্থ, এমন কি তদতিরিক্ত অর্থও দরিদ্র খরিদ্দারদের নিকট হইতে আদায় করিয়া থাকে। ইহার ফলে দরিদ্র জনসাধারণ দিনের পর দিন মৃত্যুর দিকে অগ্রসর হইতেছে। ১৯৩৭-৩৮ সালে যখন প্রাদেশিক স্বায়ত্তশাসন আরম্ভ হয় তখন Other taxes and duties খাতে voted পত্রে বরাদ্দ হয় Rs. 43,000, charged খাতে কোন বরাদ্দ রাখা হয় নাই। ১৯৩৮-৩৯ সনে এই খরচের বরাদ্দ ছিল Rs. 30,000, কিন্তু ক্রমানুয়ে ইহা বর্দ্ধিত করিয়া আগামী বৎসরের জন্য বরাদ্দ হইয়াছে Rs. 7,21,000 অর্থাৎ ১৯৩৭-৩৮ সনের বরাদ্দের ২৪ গুণ বৃদ্ধি করা হইয়াছে। ১৯৩৭-৩৮ সনে বাংলার মোট খরচ বরাদ্দ ছিল ১২ কোটি ২২ লক্ষ ৫ হাজার টাকা, আলোচ্য বৎসরে বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে ৩০ কোটি ৭৩ লক্ষ ৭৮ হাজার টাকা, অর্থাৎ ১৯৩৭-৩৮ সনের বরাদ্দের আড়াই গুণ খরচ বৃদ্ধি করা হইয়াছে। বর্ত্তমানে বিক্রয় করের পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধি করা হইয়াছে দুই গুণ, অর্থাৎ যেখানে খরিদ্দারকে টাকায় এক পয়সা কর দিতে হইত সেখানে তাহাকে দিতে হইবে দুই পয়সা।

স্যার জন হার্বার্টের সৃষ্ট বাংলার মন্ত্রিসভা শাসনভার গ্রহণের পর হইতে বাংলার জনসাধারণের ঘাড়ে নূতন নূতন ট্যাক্সের বোঝা চাপাইয়া দিতেছেন। কৃষি আয়কর স্থাপন দ্বারা বাংলাদেশকে শোষণ করার আর এক অভিনব পন্থা আবিষ্কৃত হইয়াছে। ইহাই শেষ নহে; মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয় অদূর ভবিষ্যতে আরও কয়েকটি নূতন কর স্থাপন করিবার আভাষ দিয়াছেন। এই সব কর স্থাপনের দ্বারা যে বহু পরিমাণ অর্থ অতীতে পাওয়া গিয়াছে এবং ভবিষ্যতে পাওয়া যাইবে তাহার এক বিন্দু পরিমাণও জনসাধারণের মঙ্গলের জন্য ব্যয় করা হয় নাই; কেবল মন্ত্রীরা এই অর্থের দ্বারা নিজেদের আত্মীয়-স্বজনের মোটা বেতনের চাকুরীর ব্যবস্থা করিতেছেন।

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, বৎসরের পর বৎসর বাংলার বাজেটে কি পরিমাণ ঘাটতি পড়িতেছে তাহার একটি হিসাব আপনার যোগে এই পরিষদে প্রদান করিতেছি। ইংরাজী ১৯৩৭-৩৮ সনের শেষ অংশে বাংলার তহবিলে উদ্বৃত্ত ছিল ৩৩ লক্ষ ৯৮ হাজার টাকা। কিন্তু আলোচ্য বৎসর ও তৎপূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী বৎসরসহ বাংলার বাজেটে ঘাটতি দাঁড়াইয়াছে ১৯ কোটি ৬৫ লক্ষ ৮৫ হাজার টাকা। এই টাকা পাওয়া যাইবে কোথা থেকে? দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের উপর নূতন নূতন কর বসাইয়া তাদের এই অপব্যয়জনিত ঘাটতি পূরণের ব্যবস্থা হইতেছে। যে সময় বাংলাদেশে ৫০ লক্ষ লোক খাদ্যাভাবে মারা গেল, যখন বাংলার লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক ঔষধের সংস্থান করিতে পারিতেছে না, তখন বাংলার জনসাধারণের নূতন কর বহন করা দূরে থাক পুরাতন কর দেওয়ার ক্ষমতা নাই; তখন মন্ত্রিসভা যে করভার দ্বিগুণ বর্দ্ধিত করবেন তা কল্পনা করিতেও লজ্জা হয়।

বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী শিয়া জিন্নাহ লীগ দলভুক্ত। তাঁরা চান বাংলার সোন্নত সমাজ সম্প্রভুক্ত মুসলমানগণকে ধ্বংস করতে। এবং তা করতে চান যেভাবে Palestine-এ ইহুদি নিবাস স্থাপন করা হয়েছে সেইভাবে বাংলাদেশে শিয়া নিবাস স্থাপন করতে। কিন্তু তাদের সাবধান করে দিচ্ছি যে বাংলার সুন্নি মুসলমান তাঁদের কখনও সমর্থন করবে না। নোয়াখালী ডিষ্ট্রিক্ট বোর্ড

নির্বাচনে সুন্নি মুসলমানগণ তার কতক উত্তর দিয়েছে। আমি পরিষদের মাননীয় সভ্য মহোদয়গণকে আহ্বান করিতেছি যে আপনারা সকলে আমাদের এদিকে চলে আসুন। চলুন আমরা সকলে একতাবদ্ধ হয়ে এই শিয়া প্রভাবান্বিত মন্ত্রিসভা ভেঙ্গে দিয়ে বাংলার মুসলমানকে মুক্ত করি; তাহলে বাংলার দরিদ্র মুসলমানগণ যাদের শতকরা ৯৫ জন সুন্নি মুসলমান তারা এই সমস্ত কর হইতে অব্যাহতি পাইবে। বাংলায় স্থায়ী জনপ্রিয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠিত হইবে। আশার শুভ প্রভাত দেখা দিয়েছে। সর্বশেষে আমি বাংলার দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের পক্ষ হইতে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর নিকট এই দাবী করিতেছি যে তাঁহারা বিক্রয় করের দায় হইতে দরিদ্র জনসাধারণকে মুক্তি দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করুন।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 6,92,400 for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about anomalies and defects in the administration of various taxation measures under this head.

Sir, on previous occasions I took the opportunity to invite the attention of this House to various drawbacks of certain legislation leading to taxation measures under this head. I am now trying to invite the attention of the House to some of the administrative and other defects of such taxation measures, some of which have already been discussed or revealed from time to time.

But before doing so, I feel it my duty to invite also your attention and the attention of the country outside to the position of the present Government. As today's voting has shown earlier in the day the Government is only being kept up with the support of the European Group, about 19 or 20 of whom were present today and took part in the voting. Unfortunately for us, the constitution has been so framed that in spite of our best wishes it is the Europeans who hold the balance and remain the top dogs.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, these things do not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am talking of anomalies, Sir. What more anomaly can there be than this, the greatest of anomalies in our public life? I am also talking about taxation. Again, I submit that we are being taxed both in our purse and in our patience through the incubus of domination of certain vested interests in this country. While speaking on anomalies in taxation, I believe it will not be out of place at all to invite the attention of this House to the present state of affairs. However, Sir, I shall not take up much time of the House on this issue.

There is only one other point which in this connection I would like to submit and that is the continued detention of about 10 members of the Opposition as security prisoners which again is enabling the European Party to make their presence felt. I hope, and this I appeal without any rancour, that it will be possible for the Indian element, under the leadership of whoever can take the lead in the right direction, to make the Europeans know and understand that we will manage our own affairs ourselves irrespective of their presence and we shall be in a position soon to have an absolute majority of all progressive political parties managing our affairs in our own way without dictation or without any sort of patronage or wire-pulling from behind. So far as we are concerned on this side of the House we are not at all interested in particular persons or personalities,

but surely we are interested in having the entire administration run and conducted by Indians with the best of intentions to serve this country and our own interests.

Mr. SPEAKER: Come to the point please, Dr. Sanyal.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Coming to the taxes under this head there are the entertainments tax, the betting tax, the tax under the Bengal Finance Act Tax of 1939 and the tax under the Bengal Finance Sales Tax Act of 1941 which taxes compose the bulk of the realisations under "Other Taxes and Duties". The others include the Bengal Raw Jute Taxation Act and Motor Vehicles Taxation realisations. So far as the Sales Tax Act goes, I have taken an earlier opportunity to point out how the administrative machinery set up has defied the intention of the Legislature to impose only one-point tax. As there was no specific provision in the legislation demanding that there would be no double taxation at all in practice commodities that had passed from a registered dealer to an unregistered dealer and again went back to the registered dealer to be passed on to the consumer have naturally been taxed twice. This is one of the fundamental anomalies of that taxation. I had also pointed out to other anomalies which have led to a situation in which merchants who otherwise would like to have multiple shops and large business turnover under better economic systems have been compelled to split up their undertakings so that the quantum of taxation may be avoided or reduced. These are the two fundamental anomalies in this measure. I would appeal to the Hon'ble Minister in charge and to Government to see if even now through administrative arrangements they could avoid such anomalies.

In regard to the betting tax, there is also another great anomaly. I do not see our friend Mr. Nooruddin in the House just now. He was one of the vocal exponents of the abuses and anomalies existing in the realisation of betting tax through the machinery of the Turf Club. This arrangement is sought to be justified on the ground of economy in the realisation or in collection charges. But, Sir, as the time at my disposal is short, I would conclude by saying that it has given a loophole to one section or one interested group of Europeans again to avoid payment of larger amounts to the public exchequer and to practically rule in the field of this game.

The third important measure with regard to which anomalies have been found is the Electricity Tax Act The Electricity Tax Act has been recently reviewed when we wanted to examine in connection with an enhancement of the electricity duty what measures could be taken to maximise revenue while at the same time allowing the poor man to go comparatively less taxed Industries had been enjoying exemption for obvious reasons but there are large areas in the suburbs of Calcutta where palatial buildings had been constructed by jute mills and other mills where residential quarters of Burra Sahibs get electricity comparatively at a cheaper rate and also the measure of taxation there consequently becomes less.

I had an intention similarly to point out how the motor vehicles tax question was giving a loophole to anomalies under which certain classes of owners of vehicles were being exempted or comparatively less taxed than others. (At this stage the member reached the time-limit.)

As my time is up, I will not press other points at this stage.

With these words, Sir, I press my motion for acceptance.

Rai Bahadur JOGESH CHANDRA SEN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 6,92,400 for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the collection of betting tax and thereby encouraging gambling especially when the province is passing through a crisis.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the time at my disposal is very short I would confine my remarks only to the point mentioned in this cut motion but that would not mean that I welcome the other taxes known as "modern taxes". My object is not to criticise the administrative machinery but I object to the imposition of tax on betting. By levying this tax Government virtually aids and abets a criminal act, that is, gambling. Horse-racing is a vice imported from the West and the Government of this land call it sports; otherwise they cannot levy any tax. Westerners have their own code of virtues and vices and we have imitated the one and not the other. This vice went very far, Sir, and even dog-racing was started in the name of sports and the House may remember that there was much mud thrown over this matter in this House. If by spending a few thousands of rupees you can collect several lakhs, then it is certainly very tempting. But can the world go ahead on that basis? If small outlay be the criterion, then one may encourage pick-pocketing as for that you only require a used safety razor blade and earn a lot till you are caught. I would draw serious attention of the honourable members of this House and also of the Hon'ble Ministers to some facts which are known to many who are present here. Is it or is it not a fact that thousands of middle class and poor families have been ruined by betting and gambling in the race course? Is it not a fact that several persons died of heart failure and shock inside the race course? Is it not a fact that wives and daughters were relieved of their ornaments by a loving husband or a father who was all out to make 100 by betting rupee one? It is not a sport. It is gambling. May I not under these circumstances ask the Government to stop this evil without a moment's delay? They should stop horse-racing by an Executive Order, if possible, and take possession of the buildings and the race courses and use them for some legal purposes. The growing evil must be stopped. I had occasion to warn before and I appeal to the authority to take immediate action. If you encourage this sort of gambling in order to augment your resources, you may as well impose tax on many questionable trades and vocations in order to square up your balance. If you really want to run a good Government, do stop this sort of evils and improve the moral tone of the people.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব। আমার বন্ধু যে ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব করিয়াছেন সে সম্বন্ধে কয়েকটি কথা বলতে চাই। তাঁর প্রস্তাবের মর্ম্ম হচ্ছে বিক্রয় করের দায়িত্ব থেকে বাংলার পল্লীগ্রামের জনসাধারণকে মুক্তি দিতে হইবে। এই বিল যখন প্রথমে পরিষদে উপস্থিত করা হয় তখন গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষ থেকে মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলেছিলেন, খরিদ্দারদের এই কর দিতে হবে না। কিন্তু দেখা যাচ্ছে যে খরিদ্দারদের এ কর দিতে হচ্ছে। আজকে বাংলা দেশে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক খেতে না পেয়ে মরছে—আমি বলবো এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর আমলে যাঁরা শিয়া মনোভাব দ্বারা প্রভাবান্বিত তাঁরাই মন্ত্রিত্ব করছেন,

Mr. SPEAKER : একথা অনেকবার বলা হয়েছে, বার বার বলবার দরকার নেই।

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED : অনেকবার বলা হয়েছে আর বলবো না। তবে বহু মন্থনের ফলে সমুদ্র থেকে সুধা উৎপন্ন হয় সেই জন্যই বার বার বলছি। আজকে যখন দেখছি বাংলার জনসাধারণ লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক না খেতে পেয়ে মরছে, এই অবস্থায় তাদের উপর কর চাপিয়ে দিলে অত্যন্ত অন্যায় হবে। বাংলার কৃষক সাধারণ যে সমস্ত জিনিষ বিক্রয় করে, তাহার ক্রেতাগণ লাভের অঙ্ক হাতে রেখে দর দিয়ে থাকে। কিন্তু যারা বাজে জিনিষের ব্যবসা করে, এবং তাদের যখন কর দিতে হয় তারা দর বাড়িয়ে খরিদ্দারের উপর সেই কর চাপিয়ে দেয় এবং শেষ বিক্রয়ের দ্বারা তা দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের ঘাড়ে পড়ে। এই ভাবেই শাসন চলছে। এর ফলে দেশ পাকিস্থানে পরিণত না হয়ে শিয়াস্থানে পরিণত হবে। কাজেই আমি এদিকে মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করতে চাই, যাতে দরিদ্র জনসাধারণকে এই কর দিতে না হয়।

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, বর্ত্তমানে Bengal Assemblyতে যে বাজেট উপস্থিত করা হয়েছে তাতে একটা মর্ম্মান্তিক অবস্থার উৎপত্তি হয়েছে। আজ এই অশেষ দুর্দ্দিনে বাংলার লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক যখন না খেয়ে সহরে, গ্রামে প্রাণত্যাগ করছে, বস্ত্রাভাবে উলঙ্গ হয়ে ঘুরে বেড়াচ্ছে তখন বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী তাদের উপর নিত্য নূতন করভার চাপানোর ব্যবস্থা কোরছেন। আজ বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট লক্ষ লক্ষ লোকের খাওয়ার এবং পরার বন্দোবস্ত করতে অক্ষম হয়েছেন। আজ বাংলা দেশে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক বসন্ত, কলেরা, ম্যালেরিয়ায় প্রাণত্যাগ কোরছে অথচ কুইনাইন এবং অন্যান্য ঔষধের ব্যবস্থা নাই। স্বাস্থ্য বিভাগকে জানানো হলে তার কোন ব্যবস্থা হয় না। আজ আমি জানাতে চাই আপনারা যখন মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের কার্য্যের সমর্থন কোরবেন তার পূর্ব্বে দেশের কথা চিন্তা কোরবেন। স্বদেশপ্রেম ইসলামের ইমানের অংশ। আপনাদে চতুর্দ্দিকে মৃত্যুর লেলিহান জিহ্বা যে সমস্ত লক্ষ লক্ষ নরনারীকে গ্রাস করছে তাদের কথা একবার চিন্তা করুন। বাংলার পাটচাষী পাট-শিল্পকে রক্ষা করছে অথচ গভর্ণমেণ্ট পাটের একটা সর্ব্বনিম্ন দর বেঁধে দিতে অক্ষম হয়েছেন। যে পাটচাষী ছেলেমেয়ে পরিবার সহ ম্যালেরিয়ায় ভুগে ভুগে পাট উৎপন্ন করে, সেই পাটের সর্ব্বনিম্ন দর না বেঁধে দিয়ে পাটচাষীর উপর tax বসাচ্ছেন। আপনারা আর কি করতে পারেন, কেননা, আপনাদের শ্বেত বন্ধুদের ত সন্তুষ্ট রাখতে হবে। শ্বেত বন্ধুগণ বিগড়ে গেলে তরী অতল সমুদ্রে ডুবে যাবে। আপনাদিগকে যাঁরা এখানে নির্ব্বাচন কোরে পাঠিয়েছেন আজ তাঁদের কথা একবার স্মরণ করুন এবং নিজের কর্ত্তব্য স্থির করুন। দেশের উপর নূতন নূতন কর ধার্য্য করিয়া দেশটিকে ধ্বংসের পথে দিবেন না।

Mr. SPEAKER : Your time is up.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I rise to reply to the cut motion moved by my esteemed friend Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra Sen. He has stated that the imposition of betting tax encourages gambling. The arguments that he has used are most erroneous and fallacious, because betting tax instead of encouraging gambling rather discourages it as it takes away from the winning or totalisator pool a part of the proceeds and thereby checks the temptation of betters and punters.

Sir, he has also advocated the abolition of racing. I would like to explain that the attitude of Government is that they do not encourage gambling, but they take the most realistic and most practical view of the matter. It is admitted that the spirit of gambling is inherent in most persons. (Laughter.) Therefore, even if racing is abolished, the result would be that gambling in other forms will crop up and people will go to shady gambling houses and crooked gambling dens and will squander away

their money. Therefore, gambling should be restricted to certain disciplined form and that is better than allowing people to resort to illicit gambling. So far as the question of abolition of gambling altogether is concerned, this problem bristles with difficulties. An experiment was tried in America to abolish drinking. A Prohibition Act was passed but it was found that though the professed consumption and sale of liquor were prohibited, yet drinking was going on. Therefore, the experiment failed and the whole Act had to be scrapped. In the same way, if we try to abolish gambling altogether, there may be an increase of other crimes and things like that as in America where there was regular trafficking and smuggling of illicit liquor and bootlegging.

Sir, Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal stated that the procedure of collection of this money is not quite the correct one because he stated that this money is collected through the Royal Calcutta Turf Club. I would like to point out that this is the most economical form of collection. By giving the task of collection to the Royal Calcutta Turf Club, the whole amount is collected at the minimum cost. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is a bluff.) Besides that, I would like to point out that Government collect about Rs. 25 lakhs from betting tax which means that the temptation to punters and gamblers is reduced.

Sir, with these words I oppose the cut motion moved by Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra Sen.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: After it has been said this evening that wine is food and betting tax is good, no more speech is necessary.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: I wish to say just one thing.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, how many Ministers will speak?

Mr. SPEAKER: It relates to taxation.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The mover of the original demand still has a right to speak.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, I do not wish to speak.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Sir, the demand of Rs. 6,92,400 relates to a number of taxes and duties administered by different departments of Government. A list of these taxes and duties think I need not waste the time of the House by repeating them. I would has already been placed before the House by my friend Dr. Sanyal and I only say that the total income which we expect out of these taxes and duties will come to about 2 crores and 55 lakhs of rupees only.

As regards the cut motion of my friend Rai Jogesh Chandra Sen Bahadur, I would only say that his arguments only support the proposal of having a tax on gambling. (Rai Bahadur JOGESH CHANDRA SEN: Why not have a pick-pocketing gang.) There will be no capital outlay. The fact that gambling has ruined some families and ruined the joy of many is well known. So, Sir, the tax on gambling not only adds to the revenue but it is the most effective control over gambling.

As regards the motion of my friend Dr. Sanyal, I am afraid he has confined his observations mostly and mainly to bettings and other facts. He has not, however, mentioned a single specific instance of maladministration or anomalies or defects in the administration. I would welcome specific instances of maladministration or defects or anomalies in the actual realisation of the tax, and will certainly give our best consideration for removing such defects which may be found.

As regards the observations of my friend Maulvi Maqbul Hossain and Maulana Golam Sarwar Hossaini, I would only say that Government is always anxious to see that maximum possible relief is given to the poor. Only a perusal of the Schedule of the Sales Tax will show that not only food and food articles which are necessary for the poor people are exempted from the Sales Tax but also other poor man's necessities have been exempted, namely, text book, cloth, handloom cloth, yarn, kerosene, matches and lots of other things. It is also well known to this House that the recent Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill which this House has just passed has made still more liberal provisions in this respect.

Under the circumstances, I submit, Sir, that these cut motions are not at all justified and I hope, Sir, that the House will throw them out.

As regards jute tax, since the motion has not been moved I do not propose to make any observation.

With these words, Sir, I oppose the cut motions.

The motion of Maulvi Maqbul Hossain that the demand of Rs. 6,92,400 for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 6,92,400 for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra Sen that the demand of Rs. 6,92,400 for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea that a sum of Rs. 6,92,400 be granted for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties", was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 6-50 p.m. till 3-30 p.m. on Thursday, the 16th March, 1944, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 16th March, 1944, at 3-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 12 Hon'ble Ministers and 185 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Fire accident in Down Dacca Mail.

***169A.** (SHORT NOTICE.) **Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state whether there was a fire accident in the Down Dacca Mail on Sunday, the 5th March, 1944?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what was the cause of the fire;

(*ii*) how many persons were injured;

(*iii*) how many died;

(*iv*) where the injured persons were and are being treated;

(*v*) whether the injured persons received proper first aid as soon as the accident occurred; and

(*vi*) whether the Government are considering the desirability of enquiring into the matter of payment of suitable compensation to the injured and the dependants of the dead?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prosanna Pain): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) The cause is under investigation by the Railway Administration.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) Eighteen persons are reported to have been injured including one who died in the Campbell Medical Hospital on 5th March, 1944.

(*iv*) All the 18 injured persons were brought down to Calcutta and sent to the following hospitals for treatment:—

(1) B. R. Singh Hospital, 1.

(2) Medical College Hospital, 7, of whom 5 were discharged on the same day on risk bonds.

(3) Campbell Hospital, 10.

(*v*) Yes, first aid was promptly rendered by the Guard at the site of the accident, at Ranaghat by the Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Ranaghat, and at Sealdah station by the Medical Officers of the Railway Administration.

(*vi*) Under the Indian Railways Act, the Railway Administration appears to be liable to pay compensation to persons killed or injured in an accident, and Government will certainly make enquiries as suggested.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell the House when he got this information of fire officially or unofficially?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: The information about the accident was received officially on the 5th.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House whether he himself did go there?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: No.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action the local officials took when it was brought to their notice that there was an accident?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: The department immediately came into contact with the railway administration and made enquiries.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I did not enquire about the Department of Communications and Works; I asked what action the local officials took.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: The local officials had nothing to do with it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that local officers are required immediately to take action whenever an accident takes place on a railway?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Yes, when a collision occurs.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that the Indian Railways Act provides for a joint enquiry by the Senior Inspector of Railways and local officials?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Railway Act demands that there should be a joint enquiry?

(No answer.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With regard to answer (*b*)(*i*), about the cause of the fire, has the Government of Bengal taken any steps to ascertain the cause of the fire?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: They made an investigation of the railway administration in consultation with the Government Inspector.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Has the Government of Bengal done anything? I am afraid my question has not been understood.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think he has understood your question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is it in the contemplation of Government to hold a joint enquiry as provided in the Railway Act?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: The primary responsibility is that of the railway administration and the railway administration has taken up the matter. Pending its report Government do not propose to do anything.

Price of rice, etc., as it stood on 31st May, 1943, in subdivisions of Bengal.

*170. **Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing in the different subdivisions of Bengal the prices current on 31st May, 1943, of paddy, rice, potato, *mung*, *masur*, *arhar*, *sola* (gram), *matar*, kerosene and mustard oil?

MINISTER in charge of the CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): A statement containing all the information as far as available is laid on the Library Table. As only Saturday prices are reported by Subdivisional Supply Officers, prices prevailing on the 29th May, 1943 (which was a Saturday), have been shown in the statement; those prevailing on 31st May, 1943, not being available. Prices of *matar dal* are not available as they are not separately reported. Kerosene prices are fixed under the Defence of India Rules by District Magistrates at different times for different districts. Controlled prices of kerosene prevailing on the 29th May last have been shown in the statement as far as possible. The same prices of kerosene prevailed on the 31st May.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in many districts of this province Government have not been able to maintain the controlled rates of paddy and rice as in the district of Pabna?

Mr. SPEAKER: How does that question arise?

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Government is not in a position to maintain the controlled rates of paddy and rice in the district of Pabna.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: All that I was asked to do was to lay on the table a statement showing the prices current on 31st May, 1943. The question was not what were the controlled prices and whether those prices had been maintained. Sir, I would like to submit that the question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether those interesting rates were at par with controlled rates of the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: At this distance of time it is difficult for me to say.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether those rates were just opposite to the controlled rates?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the reasons for not taking any steps against the higher rates?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: So far as I remember on the 31st of May, 1943, there were no controlled prices

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there were any controlled rates for paddy and rice in May 1943?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: I think there were.

Removal of destitutes by the Khaksars.

***171. Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether the Government have information as to—

(*a*) the number of destitutes belonging to—

(*i*) Muslim,

(*ii*) Hindu, and

(*iii*) other communities that were removed by the Khaksars outside Bengal in 1943; and

(*b*) how many of such destitutes of each of the said communities have returned to Bengal as yet?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea): (*a*) 471 Muslim and 185 Hindu destitutes were removed by the Khaksars with financial assistance from Government during the period between 7th November, 1943, and 14th December, 1943. There were no destitutes belonging to any other community. It is not known if any destitutes were removed before that date. No destitutes were removed by the organisation after the 14th of December, 1943, as Government prohibited the removal of any more destitutes by the organisation.

(*b*) It is not known how many of them have returned to Bengal. A party of eight Muslim destitutes from Dacca came back to Calcutta, assisted by the Muslim League, Amritsar, in the matter of their railway fares.

Mr. ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Hindu Mahasabha applied for the removal of destitutes outside the province, and if their application was rejected?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the assistance rendered by the Government to the Khaksar Party?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: The actual travelling expenses of 3rd class fares and diet allowance at the rate of Rs. 5 per head.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of Bengal are in touch with those destitutes who have not yet returned?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: A report has been called for.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of Bengal know anything about the whereabouts and the conditions in which they are being kept?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I want notice.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Do the Government feel the desirability of enquiring into the fate of these destitutes, both Hindus and Muslims and letting the House know about it?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: As I have already stated, the matter is under enquiry. I want notice if details are wanted.

Prohibition of manufacture of "gur" and alleged hardship of sugarcane growers.

***171A.** (SHORT NOTICE.) **Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department be pleased to state whether he is aware that hardship is being experienced by a large number of the growers of sugarcane in the districts of Murshidabad and Nadia due to the orders of Government in respect of the disposal of their cane in the current session and in the manufacture of *gur*?

(*b*) What arrangement was made by Government to ensure that the sugar mills situated in the area would make full use of the entire supply of sugarcane in the zones within which the manufacture of *gur* was sought to be prevented or discouraged?

(*c*) Whether he is aware that up to the 7th February, 1944, no sugar mill has purchased any sugarcane from the cultivators between Dhubulia and Lalgola on the Ranaghat-Lalgolaghat Section of the Bengal and Assam Railway?

(*d*) What steps are proposed to be taken or have been taken to mitigate the sufferings of the sugarcane cultivators of the area whose cane has been left unutilised so long?

(*e*) What measures are under contemplation to ensure that the future production of sugarcane may not be seriously curtailed as a consequence of the current year's experience?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE, LABOUR and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Shahabuddin): (*a*) No. The Darsana Sugar Factory is the only factory in these districts which has obtained a cordon under the Order issued in pursuance of the Gur Control Order, 1943. No report of any hardship of the growers of this cordoned area has been received by Government.

(*b*) Under the Order, mills having a cordon are required to take all cane offered to them. Instructions have issued to local officers that if the mills refuse to take the cane offered, or transport difficulties are such that cultivators cannot take the cane to the mills or their purchasing centres, then they may, in their discretion, allow the cultivators to use their cane for manufacture of *gur*.

(*c*) No. The Ramnagar Cane and Sugar Company and the Sri Radha Krishna Sugar Factory come within the sphere of operation of the Ranaghat-Lalgolaghat Section. While the second mill is not working this season, the first named mill has obtained no cordon under the Gur Control Order.

(*d*) Does not arise.

(*e*) The matter is engaging the attention of the Sugar Advisory Board. Both the mills and the Agriculture Department will of course distribute seeds as usual.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*a*) "No", has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister been drawn at any time to Circular No. 470(30) Misc., dated the 18th December, 1943, sent by the Subdivisional

Officer of Berhampore to various union boards in the Murshidabad district, including Bhabda, reading thus:—

এতদ্বারা আপনাকে জ্ঞাত করা যাইতেছে যে এই সমস্ত Sugar Mill (রামগঞ্জ)-এর চতুর্দ্দিকে ১৮ মাইলের মধ্যে যে সমস্ত ইক্ষু জন্মিয়া থাকে উহা ঐ মিলগুলিকে দিতে হইবে, গুড় প্রস্তুত এবং অন্যান্য কাজে লাগানো যাইবে না।

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I am glad that Dr. Sanyal has given me this opportunity to answer the mischievous insinuation that he has been making against us.

Sir, my attention was drawn to this circular by Dr. Sanyal himself and I did explain to him that the Government order did not include that particular mill, and immediately this notification was issued by mistake by the Subdivisional Officer, orders were issued that this cordon must be withdrawn and that explanation was called for from the Subdivisional Officer why he made such a mistake. This was known to Dr. Sanyal. In spite of that he was insisting why such things were happening.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, may I explain——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I am sorry that this has happened. When a question is asked, an answer has got to be given, but it is not proper either for the questioner or any other member who desires to put a supplementary question, or for the Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary who desires to answer that question, to discuss the question. I hope this direction will strictly be followed in future.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, so far as this particular question is concerned, I hope you will allow me to explain my position.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, and I hope you will not pursue it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state or quote the order of the Subdivisional Officer or the District Magistrate of the district countermanding the order that has actually put the cordon?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I cannot quote offhand.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when he received this short-notice question?

Mr. SPEAKER: This raises another vexed question. I hope you will not press for an answer to this question at this stage.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, you know that it was sent through you to the department, and I therefore want to ask——

Mr. SPEAKER: Don't raise that point, Dr. Sanyal. Please put your supplementary question direct.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if up to the 7th of February, 1944, there was any order issued countermanding this order?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I do not remember the exact date. I can say this much that the very day my attention was drawn to this mistake, that order was issued then and there withdrawing the cordon.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it not a fact that the attention of the Hon'ble Minister was drawn on the 3rd January, 1944?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I cannot vouch for the date.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what he meant a few days ago by saying that the order has been recently withdrawn?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether up to the date when the question was sent any sugar mill situated on the Ranaghat-Lalgolaghat section purchased any sugarcane from the growers within the area?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I cannot answer that question offhand.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, my question was there as to whether he is aware that up to 7th February no sugar mill has purchased any sugarcane from the cultivators between Dhubulia and Lalgola on the Ranaghat-Lalgolaghat section of the Bengal and Assam Railway to which the answer is "No". I am entitled to know what this "No" refers to.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I have nothing further to add.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when instructions were issued to local officers that the cultivators could be allowed to manufacture *gur* if the mills refused to buy?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I am not in a position to give the date now.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the cultivators had been lying with their cane unutilised till about the middle of February?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I have already replied to that question that Government have no such information.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is, with reference to answer (*a*), aware that great hardship is being experienced by the cultivators and if Government have received a representation from the cultivators of Nadia district through Mr. K. P. Chattopadhaya and also a similar petition from Beldanga through Haji Khoda Baksh, son of the late Md. Ayub?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: It is not possible for me to remember all those things.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any representations were received at all or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Might have been received; I do not know.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: My question was whether attention of Government was drawn to the hardship experienced by the growers to which the answer has been "No report of any hardship of the growers of this cordoned area has been received by Government". I am quoting two representations, copies of which have been sent to me. Whether Government have received two such representations—one from Mr. K. P. Chattopadhaya and another from Mr. Khodabux.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: How can I remember that?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*c*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Sri Radha Krishna Sugar Factory have communicated to the Government before the Sugar Control Order was made operative that this season they were not going to work?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I am not in a position to give this detail. I understand that they were not included in that cordoned area.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that cultivators in the Burdwan district on the other side of the river Hooghly were also ordered not to convert their sugarcane into *gur* in the interest of the Ramnagar Sugar Mill?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another matter. Your question was with regard to Murshidabad and Nadia.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Even on the other side of the river, the Burdwan people received notice.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another matter.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: So far as Ramnagar Sugar Mill is concerned it is situated in the Nadia district on the border of Nadia and Murshidabad and within a few miles there is the Burdwan district also.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your question was confined to Murshidabad and Nadia districts.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All right, Sir, if you do not allow I won't press.

With reference to (*c*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what he means by "obtaining cordon" under the Order? Was the cordon given as a matter of privilege to the mills on their requisition or it was in the interest of the growers by Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I do not remember the exact number of the question. This question I have already answered—on the advice of the Sugar Mills Association cordons were made.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that there is a great danger of sugarcane cultivation in Nadia and Murshidabad going down as a result of the interference of the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: No, Sir, Government has no such information.

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is informed that several prosecution cases were started in Rangpur on the growers of *gur*?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. This question relates specifically to Nadia and Murshidabad.

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: It is hardship of sugarcane-growers of Nadia and Murshidabad. Therefore the question of hardship of Rangpur growers also arises.

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(answer to which was laid on the table)

Deaths due to starvation in Bakarganj.

78. Mr. UPENDRA NATH EDBAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing for the last six months up to 31st August, 1943—

(*a*) the number of persons that have died of starvation in—

(*i*) Bhola,
(*ii*) Pirojpur,
(*iii*) Patuakhali, and
(*iv*) Sadar subdivisions

of the Bakarganj district; and

(*b*) the number of them belonging to the—

(*i*) Caste Hindus,
(*ii*) Scheduled Caste, and
(*iii*) Muslims

in each subdivision?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Reliable figures are not available for the Bhola subdivision. A statement in respect of the other subdivisions is laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to unstarred question No. 78.

Subdivision.		No. of deaths.			
		Caste Hindus.	Scheduled Castes.	Muslim.	Total.
Pirojpur	..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Patuakhali	..	Nil	Nil	3	3
Sadar North	..	4	6	10	20
Sadar South	..	9	Nil	14	23

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that the villagers of Chaulakathi in a petition to Subdivisional Officer reported that 18 deaths had taken place in one village alone?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: No, Sir.

Khan Bahadur ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons why reliable figures for Bhola were not available by Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: At the time of drafting the reply, no information was received.

Khan Bahadur ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of deaths within the Barisal municipality itself situated within the Sadar South subdivision?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I want notice.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the procedure adopted by Government for collecting these figures?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: It is a matter for the Local Self-Government Department. I cannot give the information.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state from what source did he collect these statistics?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: From the local officials.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the numbers of death of these three subdivisions are so ridiculously small?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in the columns of vital statistics recorded under the instructions of the Public Health Department there is any column showing starvation as one of the causes?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: It is not for me but it is for the Public Health Department concerned to answer it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that as there is no such column as "starvation", the actual enumerators put down deaths due to starvation under some other causes like malaria or fever or unknown causes?

Mr. SPEAKER: This is more or less an argumentative question. Apart from that, this question has been agitated in this House on other occasions.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether thousands died in Pirojpur but they say nil?

Mr. SPEAKER: You are again discussing. You can discuss it at the proper time and place.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that thousands of dead bodies were thrown into the river in Mathbaria police-station because people could neither burn them nor bury them?

Mr. SPEAKER: They have stated "Nil", so that question does not arise.

Khan Bahadur ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that of the five subdivisions Bhola was the worst affected and in that case will he please state why of all subdivisions the figures for the worst-affected subdivision of Bhola have not been supplied?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question which does not arise.

Khan Bahadur ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Are we to understand that as the deaths were so many and as they were not properly collected, that is why Government could not give us the figures for the Bhola subdivision?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: No, that is not a fact.

Khan Bahadur SHAH ABDUR RAUF: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he can vouch for the correctness of the figures given?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: It is rather difficult to answer because we have got to depend on the reports of the local officers.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the department responsible for administering famine and destitute relief made any special efforts to ascertain the number of starvation deaths?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Yes, Sir, that is being done now.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What is the report of that department regarding the number of starvation deaths?

Mr. SPEAKER: The reply is that is being done now.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I wanted to know specifically with regard to time and period. The question is whether the department which was responsible for administering relief for famine and handling the famine portfolio did any effort to ascertain the persons who are dying of starvation?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Yes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What was the report of that department regarding the number of deaths due to starvation?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: A report is being awaited. It is not yet received.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the answer so far collected is based on the usual machinery or channel of statistics of the Public Health Department which does not show any special column for starvation?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: As I have said these replies are based on the report from the local officers.

Point of privilege.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I rise on a point of privilege. Yesterday a member of our party paired off with another member of the Opposition party and it has now subsequently come to our notice that the member whose name was mentioned by the Opposition party was not present in Calcutta at all. Therefore I submit that the Chief Whip of the Bose Party practised a deception on the Government party and it has been

a gross misuse of an established convention of the House and violation of the privilege of this House. I would, therefore, suggest that the matter be referred to the Privilege Committee for enquiry into the conduct of the Chief Whip of that party, and secondly, Sir, I would request your ruling as to why our member's vote should not be added to the number of votes recorded on that day.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, Khan Bahadur should have mentioned this fact to me and asked for information before mentioning the matter before you. As he has not acted as a gentleman I refuse to give him any information.

(Uproar and cries of "shame, shame".)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. This is a matter about which I know nothing whatsoever. This is the first time that I am hearing about it in this House. I will personally look into the matter very carefully and then I will state before the House the result of my looking into this affair——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What can you do, Sir? Why do you take the responsibility upon yourself? If the Government Whip has been a fool, he will have to suffer for it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. It has been stated to be the privilege of this House. I have got to look into the matter as to how far it is a privilege and I will look into this matter very carefully.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, as so many names have been mentioned I want to know straightaway the names of those gentlemen. Let me have their names.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I won't allow any more discussion on this point. A statement has been made in this House by Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali and some statement has also been made from the other side.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is no statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I am not going to listen to any further discussion on this point. I have said what I had to say. I again repeat that I will look into the matter and see what the privilege is, if any at all, and what steps, if any, are required under the circumstances.

Enquiry regarding pending questions.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a question of privilege, Sir. My question of privilege is on entirely different grounds. Will you kindly let us have your ruling as to how the position regarding answers to questions remains. We have submitted on many occasions that a large number of questions have been accumulating not merely during this session but from previous sessions and even from previous years and we only find three or four questions at a time coming up before the House and even one hour question time is not consumed. We had never this experience in the past. We would like to know from you whether the laches are due to your office or to the new Ministry which have deliberately kept out answers because many questions are unsavoury to them.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, as far as I remember a large number of questions are pending and questions, in my opinion, have not been answered as

they should have been. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Thank you.) If I remember aright—I am speaking offhand—it is not the fault of this Government alone. It has grown practically into a practice not to answer questions. I consider it to be a serious interference with the privilege of members. I do not remember whether I said openly in this House, but I remember to have spoken to the Whips of the parties that I will look into the matter in consultation with the party leaders. In fact, a sort of a committee was appointed for going into the question, but subsequently I found that it would be better if I took the advice of leaders of the parties on this question and then decided once for all the procedure which according to me would appear to be reasonable and consistent with the rules. That is what I propose to do and if the leaders of parties will kindly give a little time—any day suitable to them, I think I shall be in a position to decide the matter in the course of this week or the next.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Next week the Assembly may be over.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. I appeal to the leaders of different parties that if they will kindly give a little time tomorrow, day after tomorrow, Monday, Tuesday or any day suitable to them, then I shall be prepared to discuss this question with them and announce my final decision in the House.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, you have noticed how a short-notice question sent to the department on the 7th February has been answered on the 16th March.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you resume your seat? It is no use going into the details now. If you render me assistance in course of Tuesday—I extend this invitation in this very House to the leaders—if the leaders kindly extend their co-operation to me by Tuesday, it is welcome, and after Tuesday I will decide my own course of action if I do not get their co-operation.

Point of privilege.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Mr. Speaker Sir, Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not going to listen to any statement on that point.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: You have listened to his statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: That matter is closed for the time being.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: I want to make my position clear that I refuse to take anything as an accused. If Khan Bahadur approaches me as a gentleman I will satisfy him.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, I do not want to anticipate or to prejudge the discussion which is going to take place in your room. At the same time I do object to the way in which the Khan Bahadur thought it fit to place the matter before you, because he has already passed his judgment and abused the Chief Whip of my party in the statement which he has made. (Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He deserves it.) Whether

he deserves it or not depends upon the explanation or the statement that he might make on the matter. Khan Bahadur did not care to satisfy himself about the facts, he did not ask about it. He has abused him in language which is unbecoming of a Parliamentary Secretary to the Government. I want to say, Sir, that the Khan Bahadur has obtained information in a clandestine manner and has used it in a most unparliamentary way.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The member admitted that he was absent from Calcutta.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Rahman, please resume your seat. If member after member rises in his seat to discuss a matter about which I have given my final verdict, and if every one persists like that then it will be simply impossible to transact the business of this House. After Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali had spoken, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal rose and said "I refuse to make a statement". I wanted that the matter should end there, but it was later on raised as a matter of privilege. I hope the House will agree that when the budget is under discussion if we go on discussing a matter which is not on the agenda, to transact business will be impossible. I realise that when one statement is made from one side another statement will come from another side. In fact I was not willing to allow Mr. Basu to make any statement on this point. But he began by saying "I am not going to prejudge the discussion that is going to take place", and I thought that he was going to speak about something else. I would request you, both sides of the House, not to press further this point. Let us go on with the business of the day and as I have already stated I shall look into the matter as early as I can.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: On a point of order, Sir. When you have disallowed discussion on a particular point, if any member rises and makes his submission what is our protection against that? If you do not declare him out of order and withdraw from him the privilege of having his statement recorded in the proceedings, then it is only fair that you should allow this side to make its submission in reply to submissions which the other side has made. It is up to you Sir, to make the discussion that has taken place subsequent to your closure of the discussion out of order and to expunge it from the proceedings.

Mr. SPEAKER: It pains me to say that there is a tendency which I have noticed in some members of this House to rise and to persist even when I have given my final decision But you know the limitations of the Speaker. The Speaker has practically no powers. If you give me that power it is possible to control; otherwise, it is not possible for me to control. I have got very limited powers, as you know, under the rules. That is why I have already stated that I am going to convene a conference of leaders and see how the dignity of the House can be maintained and how this sort of thing may be stopped for good, and I propose to do that shortly. But without the fullest co-operation of all concerned, it is not possible for the Speaker, whatever his powers may be, to maintain order in, and dignity of this House. I hope every member in this House will realise the position and extend his wholehearted co-operation in maintaining order and dignity of this House.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

25—General Administration—General Administration.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,40,13,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration".

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move in order to raise a discussion about—

(*i*) the general policy of the Government.
(*ii*) the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries.
(*iii*) the corruption and bribery.
(*iv*) separation of judiciary from the executive.
(*v*) method of transfer of officers.
(*vi*) retrenchment.
(*vii*) high pay of the superior officers and low pay of the lower grade officers.

This Ministry was put into the *gadi* by the outrageously unconstitutional methods adopted by His Excellency the then Governor of Bengal, the history of which is now well-known to all. We owe to Mr. Fazlul Huq for his brilliant statement that was made on the floor of the House revealing the outrageously unconstitutional acts committed by His Excellency the then Governor. This Ministry came into power by corruption and bribery, by bribing people. The increase in the number of Ministers and the appointment of 17 Parliamentary Secretaries are themselves acts of corruption. They are nothing but bribery. Seventeen Parliamentary Secretaries have been appointed for which the public exchequer is to pay a sum of Rs. 1,14,000. On the head "Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries" the budgeted expenditure is Rs. 7,28,000 in the year 1944-45 as against the actual expenditure of Rs. 3,97,430 in the year 1942-43—an increase of Rs. 4,30,570. This is an opportunity the Ministry availed of in order to put them into power and His Excellency the then Governor of Bengal did support it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, what are the functions of these Parliamentary Secretaries? They have got nothing to do. I am told they cannot have any access to the files. While the House is in session some of them have been put forward to give replies to the questions only to justify their existence. They have got another function to do, i.e., to carry on Moslem League propaganda.

On the head travelling allowance and honoraria, etc., the sum of Rs. 1,35,000 has been budgeted in the year 1944-45 as against actual expenditure of Rs. 73,867 in the year 1942-43. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this travelling is undertaken not for keeping the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in touch with the people, not for knowing the real pitiable condition of the people but to carry on the Moslem League propaganda. The Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries went to Noakhali in order to canvass for the Moslem League candidates in the recent district board

election. They acted as canvassers. But, Sir, may I put a question how many of them went to the really affected areas of the Chittagong Division in order to know the real pitiable condition of the people who died by lakhs. If the sum of Rs. 4,30,570 would have been spent for "Grow More Food" campaign by opening small irrigation *khals* in the districts of Chittagong Division as well as Dacca Division for the development of "*boro* cultivation" many thousands of acres of land, fallow land, would have been brought under cultivation, if a portion of the sum would have been spent for the construction and repair of the irrigation tanks in the districts of Birbhum, Bankura and a portion of Burdwan. Many thousands of acres of land would have been brought under cultivation and many thousands of people would have been saved from death due to starvation. In the face of deaths by lakhs from starvation this waste of money can be termed, to say the least, criminal.

The retrenchment on the head "General Administration" is always a necessity in order to save money for the nation-building departments, particularly in Bengal where expenditure in nation-building departments is only 10 annas 3 pies annually per head as against Rs. 1-11 in Bombay, Rs. 1-8 in the Punjab and Re. 1 in Madras. This was in the year 1938-39, year previous to the war. The situation now has not improved but has rather materially deteriorated.

In the name of war a large sum of money is being wasted; there is none to check it; if objected to, you go under Defence of India Rules. Posts are being created, new departments after departments are being made. Under the head "Civil Supplies Department", Rs. 46,36,000 has been budgeted for, many officers of the General Administration have been transferred to those departments and hence the necessity of appointing 60 lawyer-magistrates has been created. On each department there is an increase in expenditure. Under the head "Civil Secretariat", budgeted expenditure is Rs. 26,27,800 in the year 1944-45 as against Rs. 25,42,000 in the year 1943-44, an increase of about one lakh of rupees.

One outstanding fact is that in the Publicity Department provisions for promotion of communal harmony has been dispensed with. Communal harmony is not the policy of the present Government. But the policy of the present Government is "Divide and Stay"; they want the division of our countries into Hindu and Muslim and continuance of the British Rule. Their leader Mr. Jinnah has not even the courage to say, "let the country be divided between Hindus and Muslims but let the Britishers quit the country". On the question of retrenchment I venture to draw the attention of the Government to the cut motion moved by Sir Yamin Khan, a Muslim League member in the Central Assembly, asking for the appointment of a committee of the Central Legislature to scrutinise Government expenditure and to suggest economy. This is all the more necessary at the time of the war. If the economy is suggested, the war is found to be an excuse for an expenditure. Even Sir Yamin Khan is not prepared to attach sanctity to the word "War". To us it has got no sanctity; we are not fascinated by the expression. Specially this is not a war for the independence of India but for perpetuation of British Imperialism. If you go to Church Lane, you will find persons holding posts there have not

even got the chairs to sit upon, have not got any work to do, they enter into the office and put their signature in the attendance register and leave the office and get into the office again after a walk in the garden at about 5 p.m. and put their signature again into the attendance register and hence the necessity of a committee to scrutinise Government expenditure and to suggest economy. The function of the Committee of Public Accounts are not sufficient for the purpose.

It is said the first casualty of war is truth. Truly it has been so exhibited at the present moment, the whole system has been corrupted and from the topmost to the lowest are open to bribes; the Supply Department is another name for corruption. It is regrettable even most of the Subdivisional Officers who control the Supply Department openly encourage corruption and some of them have notorieties of being open to bribes. It is regrettable that they do it with the knowledge of even of the district authorities and an enquiry would have been sufficient for their detection. I suggest that the committee of the Legislature for enquiry into corruption and to suggest remedy therefor have become of urgent necessity.

As to the necessity of separation of the judiciary from the executive my esteemed friend Mr. Sanyal made out a good case day before yesterday while discussing a cut motion regarding Administration of Justice. I shall only add by citing a case which came before the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Lodge in connection with the hearing of a transfer case. How the District Magistrate of Burdwan failing to influence a Munsif-Magistrate to act in the way he wanted him to act, passed an order of transfer of the case from his file to the file of the Subdivisional Officer. In the course of hearing His Lordship the Chief Justice remarked that the trying Magistrate who happens to be a Munsif-Magistrate showed sturdy independence which His Lordship could not but admire. In this connection may I draw the attention of the House to the following weighty remarks made by the Chief Justice of Lahore High Court in February, 1944, "There appears to be a persistent endeavour on the part of the executive these days not only to ignore and flout the legislature but even to interfere with and curtail the powers of the judiciary as well. The judiciary have, therefore, got to be extra vigilant and maintain their authority and prestige intact".

This illustrates why the judiciary should be completely separated from the executive.

In the course of the hearing of the above transfer case two confidential letters issued by the Government of Bengal, dated 10th January, and 7th February, 1944, to the District Magistrates of the province had also come to light which show how the Government try to influence the decision of the judiciary by their executive fiat.

I have already said that the policy of the Government is surrender to the Central Government. The District Magistrate should act as a liaison officer between the civil and the military but it has been illustrated specially by what had happened at Comilla as to the shifting of courts, civil, criminal and revenue to three places—Brahmanbaria, Chandina and Laksam for so-called military requirements that the Government of Bengal has utterly failed to look to the convenience of the people of the district of Tippera. If the court buildings would have been required for the military

purposes there was sufficient accommodation in the town of Comilla where structures could have been raised as they had been now in the three different places to accommodate the courts in the town itself.

To add to this the Government have utterly failed to give adequate compensation to those persons specially the lawyers who had to leave the place on account of shifting of the courts. In answer to my starred question No. 132 in the matter of compensation on account of the temporary acquisition of the houses, the Government have referred to the extract of a letter of instruction issued by the Central Government. In implementing the instructions issued by the Government in this matter I beg to draw the attention of the Government to one outstanding fact that the rents of the houses have been fixed without hearing the parties concerned and without knowing the claim of the parties. The Government should immediately issue orders to the District Magistrate of Tippera for reviewing the amount of compensation after hearing the parties concerned.

I do not know how to characterise the policy of the Government as to the release of State prisoners and detenus. The disturbances that followed the arrest of the Congress leaders in August, 1942, had completely subsided and at present there is no justification for keeping the State prisoners and detenus without trial. The number of persons still detained after the disturbances that followed the arrest of Congress leaders in August, 1942, in the province of Bengal is 1,335 besides many persons who were arrested before those disturbances and are still in detention. The Government have no right to keep any person in detention without granting adequate family allowances, the allowances that are granted are extremely inadequate and in many cases no allowances had been granted at all.

I do not find adequate expression to condemn the policy of the Government not to grant allowance to those detenus who are members of the Bengal Legislative Assembly though by their detention they have been deprived of their income which they had earned before their arrest.

The Ministry which is mainly dependent upon the votes of the European members—and the regret is that the European members have allowed themselves to be converted into air-raid shelters to keep the splinters from hitting the Ministry—stands self-condemned. The Ministry which is responsible for the deaths of millions of people stands also self-condemned. The University of Calcutta records that the total number of deaths above the normal in the year 1943 was estimated at 3½ millions. By statements issued by the Government of Bengal on the 11th March, 1944, the death rate in the year 1943 has exceeded by 6,88,846 than the average death rate of the last five years and in answer to one question it has been admitted by the Government that they have no records to show deaths due to starvation. Admittedly lakhs and lakhs of people died of starvation; they failed to tackle the food situation and it is sure that they will again fail to prevent the apprehended famine this year and I appeal to the Legislature to condemn the Ministry irrespective of party affiliations as the members of the Executive Council of the Central Government were condemned by all the groups including the Muslim League group by supporting the cut motion that was moved by Mr. A. Qaiyum, the Deputy Leader of the

Congress party, which was passed by a majority. I hope and trust that my appeal will not go in vain.

With these few words I commend this motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, I move this motion to raise a discussion about the provision of increased expenditure for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries.

Sir, I shall try to show that a lot of unnecessary expenditure has been provided in the budget for the next year. This Government has been pursuing a policy of patronage to party supporters and party hirelings. Before I go into the details of the budget I should like to recall the memory of the incident which led to the fall of the last Ministry. Notwithstanding the withdrawal of support of the European group the Fazlul Huq Ministry enjoyed a clear majority in this House but it is well-known to everybody the circumstances under which he had to tender his resignation. And the then Opposition with Sir Nazimuddin as its leader managed to secure a majority by means of bribery and corruption. With a lesser number of Ministers and with only one Parliamentary Secretary the previous Ministry was functioning in Bengal with greater credit than the present Ministry with a larger number of Ministers and a horde of Parliamentary Secretaries. It reminds us of the history of Bakhtiar Khiliji on hearing whose entry into Bengal with only seventeen cavalry soldiers the then Hindu king abdicated his throne. In the case of Sir Nazimuddin he alone found the throne of Bengal empty for him. I ask, therefore, what was then the necessity of having 17 Parliamentary Secretaries. It was not through the help of his 17 cavalry soldiers in the shape of Parliamentary Secretaries that he was raised to the *gadi* but it was through the help of one who is no more in this world now. These 17 cavalrymen or these 17 Parliamentary Secretaries have been tied to those offices with a long rope giving them good opportunity for finding out money from other avenues, not only to draw their salaries and travelling allowances from the exchequer. Sir, in the budget of the next year one will see an increased provision of half a lakh of rupees under the head "Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries". There is already a good drain, there is already an unrestricted and uncontrolled expenditure from the Bengal exchequer for party patronage and for supporting party supporters and their hirelings.

Sir, looking to the conditions of the province the Ministry would have acted wisely to minimise the expenditure and to curtail the expenditure by dispensing with some of these Parliamentary Secretaries. What is their function? I should say they are rather functioning with duties quite non-parliamentary. They are seen at the time of question hour replying to a question or two. They are seen in the lobby running to and fro catching members during the Assembly sitting hour; they are seen in the verandah and the corridors of the Secretariat; they are seen in the office of the Civil Supplies Department moving to and fro.

(At this stage the member's time was up.)

Sir, may I have two minutes more? Certainly I am giving facts and figures which are in the budget. I am not disturbing the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right, you can have two minutes more. Please try to finish.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: I will finish. Sir, it reminds me that after the fall of Khelafat-i-Rashedin—

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not giving facts.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: I am giving facts.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can give these facts on other occasions. During the budget discussion it is desirable that you limit your speech within the time allotted.

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: I am telling you and the House that these people have no business—nothing of the kind. Simply they are drawing big sums of money as salary and travelling allowance. Now, from the time of Yazid up to the seventh King there was so much drain from the public fund or the exchequer that the eighth King, the pious King, had to make this statement in his court that the wealth drained from the public fund by members of the Royal Family and their favourites and parasites would be greater than the wealth of the whole world. I can show from the budget that the expenditure under the head "Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries" has drawn almost the major portion of the income of the province. What for? They are touring for election of their own selves and for the election of others. They are touring to organise the Muslim League Party. It is no business of the Government and for that Government money should not be spent. They are drawing travelling allowance for their journey, journey which is made for party organisation for receiving garland and receptions and not for Government business.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to give any reply in some cases and prompt and correct reply in most cases to questions put by the members of the Assembly.

Sir, we on this side of the House have no illusion about Provincial Autonomy. More than once we have described it as a sham and mockery. More than once leaders of political thought and disillusioned Ministers have characterised Provincial Autonomy as a sham and mockery because as they said rightly while the Ministers have all the responsibility it is the officials backed by the Governor who have all the power. But, Sir, in spite of these defects and shortcomings of Provincial Autonomy that we are said to enjoy under the Government of India Act, 1935, it has the rudiments of a democratic government in so far as people's representatives make laws and ask questions to which they are entitled to an answer.

Sir, our experience has been, since this Government came to power, that the Government have not cared to answer questions that we have put from time to time and especially they have deferred replying to questions which demand an immediate reply in public interest, as they say. Let me mention one case, Sir. More than three weeks back I heard from a very

respectable member of this House, my honourable friend Mrs. Nellie Sen Gupta, that four security prisoners had died in the Dacca Central Jail. Immediately I gave notice of a starred short-notice question to elicit information about the matter, but will you believe, Sir, more than three weeks have passed but the Government have not cared to inform the House whether it is a fact or not that some security prisoners in the Dacca Central Jail have died.

Before this session commenced I gave notice of a question about the health of Babu Kedareswar Sen Gupta whom the Hon'ble Minister personally knows, a man whom I described the other day as more dead than alive, a man who has been suffering for the last 20 years from intestinal tuberculosis and who when arrested was carried to the jail on a stretcher. I asked about his health but no reply has been forthcoming.

Another prisoner is Babu Chittaranjan Guha, who is suffering from chronic colitis and suspected T.B. I asked a question but no answer has been forthcoming as yet. As I have already said, though this constitution is a sham and a mockery still we have some privileges that we enjoy under this constitution and one of the highest privileges under this constitution is this that we are entitled to ask questions and to receive correct replies. But, Sir, if like language which is said to have been given to man to conceal his thoughts answering a question has been given to the Ministers to conceal real state of affairs, they render this constitution a greater sham and mockery than usually it might have been.

Then, Sir, I move the next motion, namely, that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100. This is in order to raise a discussion about the statements made by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister in the Assembly on several occasions to the effect that the Government do not feel called upon to make an enquiry into any incident that took place during the regime of their predecessors and that they do not consider themselves bound by any undertaking given by the latter regarding any such enquiry.

Sir, of late we have noticed an obsession with this Government to explain their various dark acts of omission and commission by saying "Our predecessor, the damn Fazlul Huq Government did this thing and did that thing". When the question was raised on the floor of the House whether Government felt called upon to institute an enquiry into the serious allegations that were made about the doings of the Government forces and police in Midnapore, allegations which concerned the honour of women, Government callously replied "No". Why? "Those incidents were alleged to have occurred not during our regime". Call the Fazlul Huq Government untouchables; we do not mind, but, Sir, (Khan Bahadur MOHAMMAD ALI: You were in that government. Were you sleeping then?) if the demand has been raised, the real question is whether the demand that has been made is a right demand or not. My honourable friend Khan Bahadur says: "Well, your party was in power then." Yes, but the country knows that the party Government that was in power then put up a very stiff fight with the highest powers that be. Our Government then had the courage to call a spade a spade, our Government had the courage to disclose the differences which they had with the Governor, but like good and innocent

boys and children what are you doing? You are singing to the tune of your masters——

Mr. SPEAKER: Address the Chair, please.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Yes, Sir, through you I am addressing them. These people are singing to the tune of their masters that be, and, Sir, in order to avoid an enquiry into those incidents they raised a false cry, namely, that they did not feel called upon to go into those things, because those things did not occur during their regime. I refer, specially, Sir, to the Dacca incidents. It was I myself who had occasion to move a special motion about the Dacca Jail firing. Why? My honourable friend Mr. Shahabuddin who now adorns the Treasury benches—he also as a prominent member of the Muslim League Party moved a similar motion demanding an enquiry into the firing that took place in the Dacca Central Jail. I found one honourable leader of the Muslim League party red with anger, and rightly so, at the incidents that took place in the Dacca Central Jail. We know, Sir, that the Chief Minister then had the courage to tell the Governor in his face, because he was responsible to the House, that he felt called upon to institute an enquiry into the incidents. Unfortunately, his opinion did not prevail over the Governor's opinion. He failed then. Either plainly say that those incidents were nothing, they did not call for an enquiry, that an enquiry was unnecessary or say that we did not like to provoke the powers that be and that we did not like to provoke the officials to bring about our downfall sooner than it may take place.

Sir, with these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. GIASUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to abolish the system of nominations from the local self-governing institutions.

সভাপতি মহোদয়! local self-government প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলিতে nomination প্রথা উঠিয়ে দেবার জন্য বহুবার নিবেদন করা হইয়াছে। এই nomination প্রথা থাকার দরুণ জনসাধারণের স্বার্থ বহুলাংশে ক্ষুণ্ণ করা হয়েছে। উদাহরণ স্বরূপ বলা যায় ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের মেম্বরদের মধ্যে 8 জন জনসাধারণের নির্বাচিত প্রতিনিধি থাকে। সেই চারজন যদি কর্তৃপক্ষের সন্তুষ্টি বিধান করতে না পারে অথবা স্বাধীনভাবে কাজ করে কিম্বা circle officer যদি সেই চারজনকে পছন্দ না করেন তাহলে nomination দিয়ে majority করে নেওয়া হয়। District board, local board, municipality প্রত্যেক ব্যাপারেই দেখা যায় জনসাধারণ উপকৃত হবে বলেই তাদের প্রতিনিধি নির্বাচন করে থাকে। কিন্তু কর্তৃপক্ষের whimএর ফলে majority minorityতে পরিণত হয়। এইজন্য জনসাধারণ তাহাদের ক্ষমতা এই প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলির ভিতর প্রকৃতপক্ষে ব্যবহার করতে পারে না। এই প্রথা সংশোধনের জন্য আমাদের কৃষক-প্রজা party থেকে Mr. Humayun Kabir Upper Chamberএ একটি বিল এনেছিলেন এবং তদানীন্তন প্রধান মন্ত্রী হক সাহেব তাহা গ্রহণ করেছিলেন। বর্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী হওয়ার পরে এই বিল কার্য্যে পরিণত হওয়ার আভাস পাইনি। তাই বলছি nomination প্রথা যাঁরা রাখতে চান তাঁরা জনমতের মর্য্যাদা দিতে জানেন না। জনসাধারণ তাদের বাছাই করে দেখতে চাইতে পারে না। জনসাধারণ যাদের বিশ্বাস করে তাদেরই

ভোট দিয়া পাঠাবেন। কিন্তু কর্তৃপক্ষ তাদের শক্তি nominationএর দ্বারা create করতে চান। জনসাধারণের সঙ্গে যাদের সংযোগ আছে জনসাধারণ তাদেরই support করে। কাজেই আমরা nomination প্রথা উঠিয়ে দিতে চাই। আশা করি বর্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্টের সুবুদ্ধির উদয় হবে এবং তাঁরা জনসাধারণের মতামতের মর্য্যাদা রক্ষা করবেন।

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, in order to raise a discussion about the improper conduct and activities of the Subdivisional Officer of Serajganj such as gross abuse of his executive powers, mishandling of the civil supply problems and creating unnecessary obstacles in the matter of exercise of legitimate religious rights.

Sir, this officer has earned a great notoriety by his highhanded action and his callous disregard for civil liberties of even highly responsible persons in the subdivision. Sir, I shall place only two typical instances before the House in order to show how arbitrarily this officer exercises his executive authority, with the evident intention of cowing down the public morale and demonstrating that he is a law unto himself.

Sir, he arrested Sj. Debnath Kar, a senior pleader of Serajganj and a man of considerable position and influence on a very flimsy ground and kept him locked up in the *hazat* for several hours with no other object than to humiliate him before the public. He is the owner of a number of houses in the town, some of which have been occupied by the military. One day while Mr. Kar was going to the Treasury situated within the Criminal Court compound for drawing the house rent, he was summoned by the Subdivisional Officer to his court, and as soon as he stepped into his court the Subdivisional Officer straightway ordered a constable to take him to the *hazat* to the utter bewilderment of the people present in the court. He was kept confined in the *hazat* from 11-30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and after considerable difficulty bail was secured for him. And what was his offence? It was alleged that a peon of Subdivisional Officer's court went to the house of Debnath Babu for serving a letter of the Subdivisional Officer on him and he without accepting the letter abused the peon, twisted and threw away the letter. On this story he was prosecuted for an offence under section 353, I.P.C. The incident took place on the 16th July, 1942, but the peon submitted his report on 20th July, 1942, four days after the occurrence. And the Subdivisional Officer after a considerable time had elapsed, had him arrested in that dramatic manner and put him into the lock-up. He was criminally prosecuted and was fined Rs. 100. On appeal before the District Judge of Pabna, he was honourably acquitted. Sir, the order of the Subdivisional Officer was grossly illegal and was indeed beyond the conception of any man in his senses. The second instance of a similar character was that of Mr. Kamaleswar Banerjee, a pleader and a landholder of the subdivision. As a portion of his homestead was being washed away by the Brahmaputra he erected a bund to protect it. A frivolous complaint of obstructing the course of the waterway was made to the Subdivisional Officer by some interested persons. The Subdivisional Officer without holding any enquiry issued an injunction on him preventing the construction of the bund and an order to show cause why he should not

be prosecuted. Kamaleswar Babu appeared in the court at Serajganj with a view to show cause. But before he could have any say, he ordered him to be put into the *hazat* to the surprise of his lawyers. Sir, he was actually dragged into the *hazat*. But, Sir, this mighty Subdivisional Officer was roused from his slumber when it was pointed out to him by the lawyers that up till then there was no formal complaint against Kamaleswar Babu and his action has been illegal. The Subdivisional Officer then had him brought back from the *hazat* and sent him to the second officer with a formal complaint, who released him on bail. Sir, then followed a series of orders by the Subdivisional Officer on Kamaleswar Babu, all of which, however, were rescinded on a motion to the District Judge. Sir, can we conceive of a more monstrous conduct on the part of the head of a subdivision than this?

Sir, the cumulative effect of such highhanded action has been to demoralise the public and to silence all opposition to his highly improper activities regarding civil supply problems. Sir, I shall now show how shamelessly this officer utilised in his own interest the situation created by the shortage of sugar and kerosene in the subdivision.

Sir, a store called the "Galib Store" was started in the town to the east of the Elliot Bridge under the *benami* of his chauffeur and was run by him. This chauffeur is not a local man and came to the town along with the Subdivisional Officer and was staying with him. This store used to receive special patronage in respect of supply of kerosene, sugar, ghee, salt, etc. I may say that permits for 90 tins of kerosene per month was given to this store. It was the biggest permit. The Subdivisional Officer would frequently motor to the store in the evening and verify the stocks and check the account himself. A similar store called "Graduate Brothers Store" was started by the 2nd Munsiff and permits for 40 tins of kerosene oil were given to this store by the Subdivisional Officer. The *pankhawalla* of the Munsiff's court guarded the store at night and frequently sold the kerosene oil by day. Sir, these scandalous transactions became the talk of the town and numerous complaints were made to the Government of Bengal as well as to the District Magistrate but no action was taken. For about 8 months this continued and ultimately the District Magistrate paid a surprise visit to the town, called a public meeting and held an enquiry, and both the stores were then suddenly closed down. In reply to a question put by my friend Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra Sen in the September session of the Assembly a list of permit-holders for kerosene was placed before the House from which the names of the above two stores were omitted conveniently.

Sir, in the matter of control of prices of foodgrains, his policy was deliberately calculated to benefit the big merchants. He fixed the prices of paddy and rice from time to time without taking the existing stock at the disposal of the big merchants, with the result that the big merchants were enabled to make fabulous profits while the petty dealers were subjected to great harassments. Sir, it is a curious fact that none of the big merchants who were prosecuted for profiteering were punished. Either the cases against them were withdrawn or they were let off with a warning. But a very large number of petty merchants were heavily punished both with imprisonment and fine.

Sir, one day three and a half bags of sugar were caught at about 9-30 p.m. while being carried in a closed *palki gharry* from the residence of a well-known physician, who was a permit-holder. It was suspected to be meant for black-marketing. The Subdivisional Supply Officer, Mr. Mozaffar Hossain Chowdhury, who earned a reputation for clean and honest dealings, thereupon cancelled his permit and also the permits of others who were found to be black-marketing. The Supply Officer refused to restore those permits at the bidding of the Subdivisional Officer who himself subsequently restored them. Sir, he then got the Supply Officer transferred to Malda. Sir, after the Supply Officer left Serajganj, he complained against him to the higher authorities that in issuing permits for commodities the Supply Officer had realised donations which had been misappropriated by him. A departmental enquiry was held by the District Magistrate and the Supply Officer proved that on the eve of his departure on transfer, the entire collection of Rs. 1,100 had been paid to the Hospital Fund and that the day to day collection was duly deposited in a local bank. Sir, such is the officer who is now ruling over the destiny of the people of this subdivision. There are numerous other instances where the Subdivisional Officer had been guilty of highly improper conduct and grossly illegal and highhanded action. Sir, he has proved himself to be wholly unfit for any responsible executive position and I urge, Sir, that he should be removed to other departments of the Government.

Sir, I come now to the question of his interference with the religious rights of the Hindus. Sir, last year he refused all licenses for *Saraswati Puja* processions of various educational institutions of the town and other public and private images on the ground of it being a military station. Sir, although the military authorities gave a written consent for it, all efforts to secure licence for immersion procession from this mighty Subdivisional Officer failed. This year too the same thing was done and licence was refused. The military authorities gave it in writing that they had no objection to such procession, but the Subdivisional Officer was adamant. Thereupon the local people approached the District Magistrate who, after consulting the Superintendent of Police, granted permission for the procession. The Inspector of Police, Serajganj, was instructed by the Superintendent of Police to grant the licence. The processionists fixed 5th February as the date for the procession. But the Subdivisional Officer still refused to give the permission. On the day fixed for the procession, the Inspector demanded that some respectable persons should give an undertaking to maintain discipline amongst the processionists, and even this was forthwith given. Sir, up to 4 p.m. the Inspector under the instruction of the Subdivisional Officer was still refusing to issue the licence in spite of the order of the Superintendent of Police. At this juncture the Senior Deputy Magistrate of Pabna, who was holding court at Serajganj as a Special Magistrate, intervened, saw the Subdivisional Officer and then hurriedly the licence was issued at the eleventh hour, and the procession was taken out in an atmosphere of great uncertainty. Sir, a bare statement of these facts is enough.

I think I have established a sufficient case for instituting an enquiry into the conduct of the Subdivisional Officer during the two years of his

administration there. Sir, I demand that he be forthwith transferred from this subdivision and an enquiry be made immediately.

Sir HENRY BIRKMYRE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to introduce legislation extending the Calcutta Improvement Trust to Howrah.

In March, 1943, I moved a similar cut motion. The then Hon'ble Minister in charge of Local Self-Government stated in reply—

> "The Bill was framed more than a year ago. (I ask the House to mark these words spoken in March, 1943.) It had to pass through the scrutiny of Mr. Gurner, the Chairman of the Improvement Trust. He suggested various amendments in various respects which had to go to the Legislative Department more than once, and it is now almost ready to pass through the Cabinet in its final form and to be published by the middle of April next."

I ask the House again to mark these words:

> "In view of the Hon'ble Minister's reply, I did not press my cut motion."

It would appear that it would have been better if I had pressed my cut motion as it is now March, 1944, and the Bill has not even been published.

In September, 1943, the Hon'ble Minister in charge, in reply to a question asked by me, stated that a draft Bill had been prepared and was now under the consideration of Government. He assured the House that the Bill would be introduced in the Legislature as soon as possible. The draft Bill was in fact framed over two years ago and we know that the amendments suggested by the Chairman of the Improvement Trust went through the Legislative Department at least over a year ago. The principles of the Bill were settled as far back as 1939. An agreement was reached on the method of finance, and the Howrah Municipality, with the object of meeting their contribution to the costs of the Trust, increased their consolidated rate by 2½ per cent. with effect from 1st April, 1940——

Mr. SPEAKER: How long will you take, Sir Henry Birkmyre, to finish your speech?

Sir HENRY BIRKMYRE: Another five to ten minutes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: In that case I must adjourn the House now as it is prayer time.

(The House was accordingly adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Sir HENRY BIRKMYRE: Sir, I should like the Hon'ble Minister to be present in the House before I begin.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not necessary; the Parliamentary Secretary is there taking notes for the Minister.

Sir HENRY BIRKMYRE: Sir, the present Government can be under no misapprehensions as to the state of public opinion in this matter. In their ranks they number not only the Chairman of the Howrah Municipality

but five signatories of the memorial of 5th December, 1940, which invited the then Minister for Local Self-Government to introduce immediately legislation to extend the Improvement Trust to Howrah. I had looked forward to a more sympathetic attitude and prompt action on the part of this Government to introduce the Bill. I am disappointed and I do not know what possible excuse Government can have for the extraordinary delay in dealing with this matter. In 1889 the then Sanitary Commissioner inspected the municipality and remarked: "Of all the large municipalities of Bengal which I have inspected, and I have inspected nearly all of them, Howrah is without exception the dirtiest and most backward and badly managed municipality I have ever seen." In 1893 another Sanitary Commissioner expressed his agreement with the above remarks of his predecessor and added: "generally speaking, the sanitary condition of the town of Howrah is most deplorable." I do not suggest that today the municipality is as badly managed, but I do say the deplorable insanitary conditions still prevail in Howrah, conditions which I have to view daily with shame as I go to and from my work. We do not suggest that it is possible to take up large improvement schemes in Howrah in the present circumstances, but we do suggest that it is possible and necessary to set up the machinery of the Improvement Trust and prepare schemes of improvement which can be executed, when conditions permit. We suggest that this should have been done long ago and the delay is endangering the good work which was done in bringing about an agreement between the Howrah Municipality, the Calcutta Improvement Trust and the Government. This party are not prepared to permit any further delay in this matter. We must have a definite assurance from the Hon'ble Minister that the Bill will be published before the end of this session and I must have a definite date and I will not be content with a mere general assurance. We do not in any event regard the excuse of pressure of other legislative business as adequate reasons for delay since it appears to us that the Government are proceeding with many minor legislative measures of much less importance. If I do not get the most definite assurance from the Hon'ble Minister on this question, then I shall feel it my duty to press this cut motion. I have no desire to bring about a defeat of Government and this is not a motion of no-confidence. After all, this Government is no more blameworthy than any of its predecessors but it appears to me that in order to get something done I have no other way but to press this point by way of a cut motion.

Babu RADHANATH DAS: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about the fact that the Government are not looking after and maintaining the appointment ratio so far as the Scheduled Caste people are concerned.

Sir, this appointment ratio in the services of the Gvernoment which I have brought in a cut motion before this House is important mainly on two grounds: firstly, Sir, it is rather the duty of the Government to see that their services are equally and equitably and at the same time proportionately distributed among the various communities which constitute Bengal. But, Sir, unfortunately what we find is that the Government are utterly

indifferent so far as that apportionment of public services is concerned in the way of giving these services to the Scheduled Caste people in the proportion which they are entitled to. In the matter of distribution of these seats what we find is that the Government are not at all trying their level best to maintain the communal ratio, from which it is quite evident that the Government are rather quite willing to keep up the communal problem aflame in the country, on the ground that by not allotting, by not giving proportionate ratio to the other communities and especially the Scheduled Caste community, they will be able to keep aflame the communal problem in this country. The question, Sir, is, that, if the seats were apportioned in the ratio that has been fixed by the Government, there would have been no communal disturbance, no communal conflict in this country. But, unfortunately, as we see, the Government practically speaking by not appointing people from various communities in the public services in the ratio that they have fixed, are trying their level best that the communal problem be not at all appeased.

Sir, another thing is this. It is rather the intention of the present Government, because otherwise they would not be in position as they are now, that unless and until this communal problem is kept aflame, unless and until this communal problem is kept alive as it is now to be found, their position would be lowered down and they would not be able to administer and maintain themselves in power as they are doing now.

Sir, it has been quite evident as to how the present Government have come in position today. It is only through the mere pleasure of the last Governor that the present Ministry has been functioning. Yesterday I came to know from one of the esteemed friends of mine who is a member of the Government Party—he told me in passing, of course—that so long as the Government which are functioning today have one single majority and so long as the Governor is not going against them, they will be quite safe and they will always go on functioning and administering the Government of this country. This is the version of one of my esteemed friends who is on the side of the Government today—I do not want to name him. If that be the position, I do not know whether Government will at all consider that the Scheduled Caste people should be given posts of Government according to the proportion which has been mentioned by Government long ago. I think that Government should apportion the public services in the ratio that they have decided, that is to say, 15 per cent. of the Government services should go to the Scheduled Castes and they should follow this ratio strictly. But I should say that that ratio is not quite up to the mark as the public services ought to be equally distributed. The Scheduled Caste people of this province form about one-fifth of the population and so on the basis of their population, one-fifth of the public services should go to them. In the Civil Supplies Department, in the Department of the A.R.P. and also in connection with the recently advertised posts of lawyer-magistrates, what I have found is that Government are not at all going to appoint Scheduled Caste people according to their proportion. For this reason, Sir, I request through you that Government should see that, so far as the apportionment of public services is concerned, the interest of the Scheduled Caste people is not ignored.

Maulvi RAMIZUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about Subdivisional Officer (North), Sadar, Comilla, for his taking no steps in spite of being brought to his notice to stop corruption and dishonesty in the distribution of test gratuitous reliefs.

Sir, I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the Subdivisional Officer (North), Sadar, Comilla, for his encouraging dishonesty and corruption by his recommending the names of proved and recorded dishonest persons in the reconstitution of the Goalmari and Paharpur and other Debt Settlement Boards within his jurisdiction in the district of Tippera.

Sir, at present dishonesty and corruption have pervaded throughout most of the officers and the public alike. Many have already become rich and others are thinking of being so overnight and the opportunities are many. At such a time if a responsible officer like the Subdivisional Officer supports and encourages directly and indirectly dishonesty and corruption, you can easily imagine the fate of the poor public in that area. It is now in everybody's mouth that it is the reign of corruption and dishonesty under the present Subdivisional Officer (North), Sadar, Comilla. I am just going to give some specific instances which will prove the mentality of the officer.

Sir, within my constituency in Daudkandi police-station, Goalmari Debt Settlement Board was working most satisfactorily for the last three years under the chairmanship of an honest and educated school teacher. In the words of the local officers it was one of the best boards in the thana. In August last on the expiry of its three years' term, the board was recommended *in toto* for reconstitution and the Divisional Commissioner also sent the Gazette notification to the Hon'ble Minister for publication. After that the present officer came in charge of the subdivision. Some dishonest persons managed to win over this officer by *salami* and other unfair means. The file after six months went back to this officer who gave pressure on the local officers to remove the sitting members of the board and to include amongst others a man who was removed from this board for dishonesty and corruption three years back. The local officers did not agree to include this man as he was in their opinion "proved dishonest". But the Subdivisional Officer in spite of the record, in spite of the protest of the local officers and the local M.L.A. included that very proved dishonest person only to make good the *salami* he had received from that person.

Sir, another instance of this nature is the Paharpur Debt Settlement Board within the said officer's jurisdiction. One year back the Chairman of the Paharpur Debt Settlement Board was detected red-handed to have misappropriated public money and the then Subdivisional Officer recommended for the reconstitution of that board by removing the Chairman and some other members of that board giving reasons for their removal. The Divisional Commissioner accepted the recommendation and sent the Gazette notification to the Hon'ble Minister for publication. In the meantime, the present Subdivisional Officer was won over and the file went back after six months and now I learn that that very misappropriating Chairman has again been nominated by the Subdivisional Officer.

Now, Sir, I come to another set of examples. In my constituency for lack of supervision and strict action, most of the test and gratuitous relief money was misspent or misappropriated. I personally saw the District Magistrate reporting some cases which were referred to the Subdivisional Officer, but he won't take any action.

Then I come to another set of examples. Kerosene oil is not at all available at places within my constituency though numerous kerosene tins are distributed through dishonest village agents many of whom got the agency through unfair means. These agents sell kerosene at Re. 1 per seer through the black market. I personally brought these matters to the notice of the Subdivisional Officer but he won't take any step to detect them.

Sir, the north subdivision of Sadar Comilla, particularly my constituency of Daudkandi and Homna, is seriously affected by distress and famine. Not less than 50,000 people have already died during the last few months in my own constituency. To give proper relief to this area, honest workers and honest officers are urgently required. But so long as the present Subdivisional Officer remains in charge, it is very difficult to create an honest atmosphere there.

Sir, another honourable member of this Assembly Mr. Asimuddin Ahmed also has given a cut motion and he is also very much aggrieved about the dishonest mentality of this officer.

Sir, with these words, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about Government's failure to secure and facilitate immersion of images, particularly in Nimtita and other places of Jangipore subdivision of the Murshidabad district.

Sir, I do not approach the question either from a religious or a communal point of view but purely from the point of view of civic rights *vis-a-vis* the attitude of the Government towards this matter.

Sir, I propose barely to give facts here. Before 1940 the Mussalmans of these villages freely partook of the ceremonies of the Hindus as the latter did of the former and there was no trouble over procession with music. The first test obstruction happened in 1940 *Durga Puja* when the immersion procession was stopped in front of a mosque although that was not the prayer time. But the then District Magistrate who was a right-thinking Muhammadan Officer of the old type arrived at the spot and persuaded the parties to a reasonable compromise to pass procession with music outside the prayer time.

In 1941 due to the reactionary attitude of the authorities licence was given on condition of no music before mosque at any hour. The large body of local Mussalmans resented and the Hindus felt ill-treated. Immersion was done in silence as a protest and music was dropped altogether. This, however, evoked no response from the authorities at that time.

In 1942 immersion itself was abandoned as a token of further protest. All this time the aggrieved Hindus which included loyalists of the Rai

Bahadur brand went on petitioning and flattering the authorities for a just and acceptable decision.

During the early weeks and months of the present Ministry when well-phrased and honeyed assurances and promises were being broadcast from the press and the platform the Hindus of the locality contacted with the Ministers for getting redress over the situation, and a pair of well-meaning Parliamentary Secretaries hurried to the spot apparently in their anxiety to solve a tangle and thereby score a point of communal concord which figured so prominently in their pledged manifesto. They heard all sections and made enquiries and were satisfied that there was nothing wrong with the aggrieved section and it was decided that without prejudice to the all-Bengal policy which, as they said, was going to be formulated in near future in the matter of music before mosque, the held up immersion must be effected with such procession and music as might instil confidence into the Hindu mind that Sir Nazimuddin is a safe guardian. They promised to send formal Government order immediately on return to Calcutta. This was in June and no order ever came. Representations and negotiations followed and at a conference at the Writers' Buildings just before the last *Durga Pujas* which was presided over by the Home Minister and which was attended by some members of the Legislature and by several Parliamentary Secretaries three such Secretaries were asked and authorised to proceed to the spot and stay there during the *Puja* days and effect immersion by any means.

One of the Parliamentary Secretaries actually went and found that the ban on processions, etc., which was withdrawn by the present Ministry by a general notification was reimposed in the locality by the Subdivisional Officer and the previous restriction forbidding music before mosque at all hours was inflicted afresh. Even police pickets were posted in houses where images were lying. New efforts were made for resolving the deadlock. Several proposals were made by the Parliamentary Secretary (1) by taking the procession with music along such alternate route as would exclude any mosque falling on the way, (2) by stopping music at all hours before *jumma* mosques while playing it in front of other mosques outside prayer hours. The Hindus and the local Mussalmans agreed to each of these proposals, but certain high lights who came from distant places insisted upon the old route and stopping of music before all mosques at all hours, and the Subdivisional Officer in his wisdom did not accept any proposal as an agreed formula because all Mussalmans, even if they are not local, did not concur. On the *Bijoya Dasami* day a new frustration came at the top of one that was already there and the result was that 24 images for over two years were lying accumulated without immersion.

I am not looking into the matter as a religious or as a communal question but purely as a question of private and public rights. I do not propose apportionment of blames between the communities. So long as the unfriendly third party continues in power brother will fall out with brother. But it is necessary to know Government's mind in the matter. Does not Government consider that the annual accumulation of images is a matter of public concern and that Government should see to immersion being effected forthwith? What steps do Government intend taking for ensuring unhampered enjoyment of civil rights over King's highway? Is

it the policy that one section should surrender ancient and peaceful rights simply because another section might object and threaten breach of peace? In this connection may I make a suggestion, as I did previously, that if the Ministers want that these tangles should be solved, it is necessary and desirable that instead of dealing with dead files in the archives of the Writers' Buildings, at least some of them should proceed to the locality and see things for themselves in order to catch the pulses of the communities and I have no doubt that a new adjustment between the communities can be accomplished without any trouble.

Dr. SANAULLAH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about misapplication of Defence of India Rules by District Officers and other subordinate Government officers and Police to extreme harassment to the public.

Sir, the Defence of India Rules have become handy weapons at the hands of petty officers and the Police force, especially in the district of Chittagong which is a virtual war zone. Some of the Circle Officer of the district, when approached by me regarding some maladministration and misadministration of his department, requested me to disclose the names of persons who complained against him so that he may take action under the Defence of India Rules and put them into jail. For not taking licences for possessing paddy, the District authorities and Subdivisional Officers also have prosecuted some of the most respectable people of Chittagong, as for example, Babu Ajit Kumar Ray, nephew of the late Rai Bahadur K. C. Ray, M.L.A., Mr. J. K. Ghoshal, Government Pleader, Chittagong, Khan Sahib Maqbul Ali, *zemindar*, Alhadj Yar Ali Khan Chowdhury, a member of the District Board of Chittagong, Maulvi Kabiruddin Ahmad, brother of the Hon'ble Minister Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad and last but not the least Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Choudhury, a member of this House, and many others. They were prosecuted for not taking licences for possessing some particular quantity of paddy. They are *zemindars* and own landed property; the Civil Supplies Department issued various orders in this connexion and even the Parliamentary Secretary of the Civil Supplies Department could not tell us yesterday what were the latest firmans of that department. Every fine morning we rise up to find a new firman issued by that department, and people residing in the remotest corners of the district as for example the farthest extremity of the Cox's Bazar subdivision where it takes 15 to 20 days for news to reach, because there is no mail steamer service, practically there is no communication at all,—these poor people cannot know what are the whims and caprices of this particular department and how they are to conform to their requirements. Sir, these things are taken advantage of by the police and other Government officers especially in our subject country. I have seen during my sojourn to foreign countries like England, France and other free countries that the people are not so much harassed there. People are not so much harassed even in Egypt but in the Anglo-Egyptian Soudan the harassment is worst, because there is double subjugation by the Egyptians and the Britishers. Bureaucracy and liberty can never go together.

So, Sir, in our subject country practically all officers are found to be corrupt. Wherever there is control, wherever there is restriction, there is corruption, there is nepotism and bribes are taken openly. It would be better for all concerned if the department would make up their minds and say in a clear voice with no equivocation what their real intention is. Then the public would know their exact position. Now the police and other petty officers, Subdivisional Officers and Circle Officers take advantage of the present circumstances. It is clear to all that when the police are out to bring a man they not only arrest him but beat him and take bribe from him. This is the condition all round; and the Defence of India Rules are playing havoc in the country.

(At this stage the member having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

Maulvi ABDUR RAZZAK: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to stop recital of the Holy *Quaran* in gramophone records.

স্পীকার মহোদয়, এই দেশ শিক্ষায়-দীক্ষায়, ধর্ম্মে-কর্ম্মে, বিশেষত: ধর্ম্ম শিক্ষায় ইণ্ডিয়া শীর্ষস্থান অধিকার করিয়াছে। এই দেশে মওলানা, মৌলবী, মুন্সি, কারি, হাফেজ, সাহেবানদের শহরে, বন্দরে এবং গ্রামেও কোন অভাব নাই; এবং যথায়-তথায় কোরাণ শরিফ, মিলাদ শরিফ, আজান ইত্যাদি পাঠ করার ও শিক্ষা করার সুযোগ-সুবিধাও রহিয়াছে। এমতাবস্থায় কোরাণ শরিফ, মিলাদ শরিফ, আজান ইত্যাদি গ্রামোফোনের রেকর্ডে পড়ার ব্যবস্থাটা প্রচলত রাখিয়া বাংলা সরকার মুসলমান ধর্ম্মের গুরুতর ক্ষতি করিতেছেন। কারণ, কোরাণ, মিলাদ শরিফ, আজান প্রভৃতি রাগরাগিণীর ছন্দে পড়ার বিরুদ্ধে মুসলমান ধর্ম্মের কঠোর নির্দ্দেশ রহিয়াছে। বিশেষত: রেকর্ড গান বাদ্যেরই একটা যন্ত্র বিশেষ। সেই জন্য ইহার দ্বারা কোরাণ শরিফ, মিলাদ শরিফ ইত্যাদি পাঠ করান হারাম ও নাজায়েজ। কোরাণ শরিফ, মিলাদ শরিফ ধর্ম্মপ্রাণ মুসলমানগণ ধর্ম্মের বিধানমতেই পাঠ করিয়া থাকেন; কিন্তু একদল ধর্ম্মবিরোধী নামধারী মুসলমান আমোদ-প্রমোদ অনুভব করার জন্য গ্রামোফোনের রেকর্ড বাজাইয়া কোরাণ ইত্যাদি শুনিয়া থাকে। ধর্ম্ম সম্বন্ধে তাহাদের কোন অভিজ্ঞতা নাই বলিলেই চলে। সেই জন্যই তাহারা কোরাণ পাক ও মিলাদ শরিফ ইত্যাদিকে রেকর্ডে পাঠ করিবার মতন অপকর্ম্ম করিয়া আসিতেছে। বহুকাল যাবৎ আলেম সমাজ হইতে এই কার্য্যের প্রতিবাদ করা হইতেছে কিন্তু এ পর্য্যন্ত ইহার কোন প্রতিকার হয় নাই। শোনা গিয়াছিল, এই মন্ত্রী-সভা গঠন হওয়ার পূর্ব্বে একবার কেবিনেটে ইহা লইয়া আলোচনা হইয়াছিল, হিন্দু মেম্বর মহোদয়গণ কোন আপত্তি করেন নাই। জনৈক মুসলমান মেম্বর প্রাদেশিক লীগের প্রেসিডেণ্ট শশীভূষণ গাঙ্গুলীর ভ্রাতা মওলানা আক্রাম খাঁ সাহেবের নিকট ফোন করিয়া বিষয়টা জানিতে চাহেন; শোনা গিয়াছে যে উক্ত মওলানা সাহেব বিষয়টার প্রতি কোন গুরুত্ব আরোপ করেন নাই। তাহাতে আশ্চর্য্য হইবার কিছু নাই। কেন না তিনি নিজে একজন ওহাবি, দবি, আকাওবুদ ইত্যাদি জায়েজ রাখেন। হজরত দ: অনেক বোজেজা মানেন না এবং কোরাণ পাকের অনেক ছুরার বিকৃত মানে করিয়াছেন। এই পরিষদে ওলামা পার্টির পক্ষ হইতে আমি ইহার তীব্র প্রতিবাদ করিতেছি। আশা করি, ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী সাহেব আইনের দ্বারা ইহা বারণ করিয়া মুসলমান ধর্ম্মের ও কোরাণ শরিফের ইজ্জৎ রক্ষা করিতে বদ্ধবান হইবেন। মজাদার পাব্লিসিটির দ্বারা এ দেশের দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের কোন উপকার হয় বলিয়া কেহ বলিতে পারিবেন না। পাব্লিসিটি দ্বারা যা কিছু সুযোগ ও সুবিধা তা কেবল

মন্ত্রীরাই পাইয়া থাকেন; ইহার একটা চাক্ষুষ প্রমাণ দিতেছি,—এবারে মাননীয় কৃষি-মন্ত্রী নোয়াখালির ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট বোর্ড ইলেকশন উপলক্ষে ভোট ক্যান্‌ভাস করার মানসে ফেণী গিয়াছিলেন। তিনি লাউড স্পীকারের সাহায্যে সাধারণ সভায় লীগ প্রার্থীকে ভোট দেওয়ার কথা বলিয়াছেন, শিক্ষা-মন্ত্রী বাহাদুর পরাজিত মেম্বর বলে আমাকে বিদ্রূপ করেছেন, কিন্তু ফেণীর পশ্চিম কেন্দ্রে বহু গুণ্ডা পাণ্ডা দ্বারা এবং চৌকিদার দফাদার হইতে আরম্ভ করিয়া সরকারী কর্ম্মচারিগণের দ্বারা বহু চেষ্টাচরিত্রের পর লীগপন্থীকে ২৩ ভোটে জয়ী করা হইয়াছে। কিন্তু ছাগলনই, পরশুরাম এবং কোম্পানীগঞ্জের দুই লীগপ্রার্থীর পরাজয় ঘটিয়াছে। ফেণী থানায় ৪।৫টি ইউনিয়ন হইতে লীগের সাঙ্গোপাঙ্গরা ৪০ ভোটের অধিক মৃত ও বিদেশস্থিত লোকের জাল ভোট রেকর্ড করাইয়াছে। আরো অনেক জাল ভোটের খবর আসিতেছে। অপরাপর কেন্দ্রে যাহা গুণ্ডামি চলিয়াছে, তাহা বর্ণনাতীত। ফেণী মহকুমার Subdivisional Officer, Mr. C. H. Gordon, I.C.S., সাহেবের কর্ম্মতৎপরতা না থাকিলে ব্যালট বাক্সের গায়ে তালা থাকিত কি না সন্দেহ ছিল। ইহাই হইল লীগ মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর শাসননীতি। (Hear, hear) আমি আরো—

Mr. SPEAKER: মৌলবী সাহেব, আপনাকে আর সময় দেয়া যাবে না, আপনি বসুন।

Mr. PATIRAM ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100.

My object in moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the tour expenses of the Hon'ble Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries as well. বাংলায় যখন অন্ন-বস্ত্রের অভাবে এবং মহামারীতে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক মৃত্যুমুখে পতিত হচ্ছে তখন দেখা যায় Minister এবং তাঁদের Parliamentary Secretary গণের ভাতার ব্যয় দিন দিন বেড়ে চলেছে। যখন টাকার প্রয়োজন হয় সরকারী কাজ করবার জন্য তখন সরকার পক্ষ থেকে অজুহাত দেখান হয় দুর্ভিক্ষের জন্য অনেক টাকার দরকার, এবং নিত্য নূতন ট্যাক্স ধার্য্য করে সেই টাকা আদায় করা হয়। অথচ তাদের বিলাস-ব্যসন এবং যাতায়াতের জন্য দিন দিন বাজেটের খাতে বেশী ব্যয় হচ্ছে, সেদিকে আদৌ লক্ষ্য করা হয় না। ইঁহারা যখন কলিকাতা শহর ত্যাগ করে মফঃস্বলে যান তখন তাঁদের কার্য্যাবলীর ফলে আমরা বুঝতে পারি না তাঁরা কোন সরকারী কাজে যান, অথবা পল্লী-জনসাধারণের উন্নতির জন্য কিম্বা কোন কার্য্যকরী পন্থা উদ্ভাবনের জন্য অথবা নিজেদের একটা সৌখিনতার জন্য নিত্য নূতন স্থান দেখবার জন্য tour করেন। তারা ফিরে যাবার পর দেখতে পাই সেখানে কোন নূতন কাজের বা সংগঠনমূলক কাজের ব্যবস্থা হয় নাই কিন্তু তারা ফিরে আসার পর সেখানে দলাদলির সৃষ্টি হয়েছে। আর যদি কোন মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কাহারও বাড়িতে যান, কলিকাতায় ফিরিয়া আসার পর সেই ব্যক্তি মহামান্য গণনীয় ব্যক্তি হইয়া পড়েন এবং জনসাধারণের নিকট সেবা ও সম্মান পাইবার অধিকারের দাবী করেন। তা ছাড়া অনেক স্থলে দেখা যায় Parliamentary Secretary মহোদয়গণ Industrial School পরিদর্শন করিতে যান, Agricultural Farm পরিদর্শন করিতে যান। ইহার আবশ্যকতা কি? এইসব পরিদর্শন করিবার জন্য Inspector, Supervisor, Textile Officer, Director প্রভৃতি অনেক expert আছেন—Parliamentary Secretaryগণ কি ইহাদের চেয়েও expert জানি না। তাহলেই ধরে নেওয়া যেতে পারে তাহারা পরের পয়সায় খানিকটা ঘুরে আসা ছাড়া আর কিছুই করেন না। এই প্রসঙ্গে আমি খুলনা জেলার কথা বলিতে পারি। এবার খুলনা জেলা ৩ বার মন্ত্রী পদরজে পবিত্রীকৃত হইয়াছে। যখন সেখানে অন্নাভাবে হাজার হাজার স্ত্রী, পুরুষ, বালক, বালিকা, শিশু মৃত্যুমুখে পতিত হচ্ছিল মন্ত্রী মহাশয়রা তখন সেখানে যান নাই। কিন্তু যখন দেখা গেল অগ্রহায়ণ

মাসে, পৌষ মাসে ধান পেকে উঠেছে, লোকে যখন ক্ষেতের ধান খেতে লেগেছে সেই সময়ে মাঝে মাঝে মন্ত্রী মহাশয়দের দর্শনলাভ পাওয়া যেতে লাগিল। যখন লোকগুলি মারা যাচ্ছিল তখন না গিয়ে তারা তখন কলিকাতায় ইলেক্‌ট্রিক ফ্যানের তলে বাস করছিলেন এবং তাদের দুঃখ-দুর্দ্দশা নিজেদের চক্ষে দেখিলেন না। যখন ক্ষেতে সামান্য ধান উঠল তখন তাঁরা গেলেন সেখানে অভ্যর্থনা নেওয়ার জন্য। কিছুদিন আগে জনৈক মন্ত্রী খুলনায় গিয়েছিলেন। তিনি যাওয়ার পর সেখানে স্থানে স্থানে বিরাট সভার আয়োজন হতে লাগলো। এই সভা করার উদ্দেশ্য ছিল প্রকাশ্যভাবে না হলেও পরোক্ষভাবে খুলনার ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট বোর্ডের ইলেক্‌শনের ব্যাপারে propaganda করা। এর জন্য প্রতিস্থানে প্রায় ৮০০৲ টাকা করিয়া ব্যয় করা হয়েছে। যে সময়ে লোকে অন্নাভাবে দিন কাটাচ্ছে, যে সময়ে বহু লোক কচুপাতা খাইয়া উদর পূরণ করছে সেই সময়ে মিনিষ্টারদের অভ্যর্থনার জন্য দেবদারু পাতার খরচ হয়েছে অন্ততঃ ৫০০৲ টাকা। যখন সেই মন্ত্রী মহোদয় ফিরে গেলেন তারপর দেখা গেল একটা পার্টি-বিশেষের candidateদের nomination paperএ একটা n অথবা u ভুল থাকার জন্য সেই nomination paper নাকচ করে দেওয়া হোল। মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের অভ্যুদয়ের ফল হাতে হাতে দেখা গেল।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Smart.

Mr. J. N. SMART: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,—

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, are you going to allow a member of the European Party to speak at this stage before all the cut motions have been moved?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I have allowed him to speak generally as a special case because it will be his maiden speech.

Dr. NALINAKHSA SANYAL: I think it will not be his maiden speech because he has spoken before, and I hope you will not make any discrimination in favour of the European party.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Yes, Mr. Smart.

Mr. J. N. SMART: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am a new comer to this House but I am not a new comer to Bengal. And although I now find myself for the first time looking down on the general administration of the province from the top, I have for many years been viewing these affairs from a very important, it humbler, position. My experience of the administration has been very largely at the point where the legislation enacted in this House, becomes effective in the lives of the people, namely, in the small mofussil towns and villages.

I propose to deal with the subject of General Administration under its two heads of Local Self-Government and direct administration and I wish my observations to be constructive and not merely critical. But, Sir, in so far as they are critical, I desire that my criticisms be received by this House against the background of two articles of faith from the political creed to which I subscribe and to which the European Political Parties of my generation in India, have steadily adhered from the days of Edwin S. Montague to those of Sir Stafford Cripps. The first article I cannot put in better language than that used by William Gladstone when he said: "It is liberty alone which fits men for liberty" and the second may be summed up in the dictum that, within limits "self-government is better than good government". Sir, it is against the background of these beliefs that I wish

to be judged when I say that for the past 25 years I have watched the slow, but nonetheless steady deterioration of the administrative efficiency of this province both in spheres of local self-government and direct administration.

It is a mere commonplace to say that local self-government is not functioning as it should. Every one agrees that both in this city and in the mofussil districts, such administration leaves much to be desired. The Hon'ble Minister in charge of Local Self-Government in the last Ministry, frankly admitted its shortcomings during the Budget debate a year ago. If therefore we are all agreed, cannot we all do something to improve matters? This is surely a non-party, or rather an all-party issue and it should be tackled as such. The trouble is fundamentally psychological. It is a wrong attitude of mind that produces wrong action. There is no lack of ability among those serving on these local bodies. They are well supplied with able men who could be able administrators if they approached their duties in the right spirit. Sir, I do not wish to appear patronising. I am not talking to children but to an assembly that contains many men much cleverer than myself. I know quite well that all countries have their troubles in this respect in the earlier stages of their civic growth and that my own country, in the course of its long political history has not been exempt. But we must face facts and one fact is that too many people join these bodies either for the purpose of furthering their own political aims and doing as much damage as possible to their political opponents or they join simply for their own personal aggrandisement and financial gain. In the old days of official chairmen and nominated members, local administration was much superior, but I am neither suggesting a return to that regime nor am I regretting the change. For, although the province is paying somewhat dearly for its education in civic responsibility, I feel confident that in time self-government in these spheres will achieve good government in this country as it has done in other countries. But we must do all in our power to speed things up. The Hon'ble Minister in charge of Local Self-Government in the previous Ministry informed the House last March that a decision had been taken by that Government to appoint a Local Self-Government Officer for the whole of Bengal to act as departmental head. It was suggested that this officer should be appointed with a small staff for the purpose—as the Hon'ble Minister described it—of keeping a systematic and well maintained watch and supervision of all local bodies. This officer would inspect, criticise and advise and see that such advice was implemented.

That, Sir, was an excellent decision and we would be glad to know if any steps were taken at the time to bring this about or if the Hon'ble Minister now in charge is giving the matter his consideration. One of the chief failures of these local bodies is laxity in their collection departments and I would commend to the Hon'ble Minister in charge for his earnest consideration, a suggestion made to his department some time ago by a Divisional Commissioner, that the collection departments of all municipalities should be placed in charge of Special Officers selected for the purpose. This would free Municipal Commissioners from a task they have obviously no relish for and perhaps put them in a stronger position for more vigorous efforts in other directions. Although new works may not be possible in war-time, efforts to raise the level of civic consciousness and the

sense of civic duty do not cost much money and even under present conditions can be vigorously pursued, not only by Government but by us all. As I have already indicated, half the battle would be won if such efforts were successful.

Turning, Sir, to the sphere of direct administration by government officials, time will not allow me to deal with the subject in much detail but I would like to stress two aspects of present-day working, namely, the dangers arising from political interference and the growing burden of overwork experienced by District officials. The official today has lost the singleness of purpose which he enjoyed in the pre-Montagu-Chelmsford days of my youth. Then he served one master and administered a clear-cut policy in a robust and single-minded manner. It was *not* government *by* the people but it *was* government *for* the people and whatever its detractors may say against that regime, it set up high standards of efficiency, impartiality and integrity—standards which all well-wishers for this country hope and pray may be maintained, however much the form of government may change. I shall never be anything but proud that so many of my own countrymen took part in it. Today the official finds himself serving a series of masters who often shown an embarassing multiplicity of policies which pull him first one way and then the other. I am specially concerned now with officers from the rank of Subdivisional Officer downwards. The efficiency of their administrative work has not been improved by contact with the politicians who now surround them. In many cases they find members of this House too prone to seek favours for themselves and their friends and they often find them actively hostile to the policy of the Government of the day. Naturally many of these officers view these legislators with a somewhat fearful eye. They may be only members in Opposition today, but tomorrow they may have the ear of the Ministers or be Ministers in charge themselves. Life can be made very difficult for these men, on the outer fringe of the administrative circle and far away from the friendly support of a crowded secretariat. They have to be very strong characters indeed not to succumb to some extent to this form of insidious pressure, to the detriment of good administration Pressure is also brought to bear upon these officers through the medium of questions in this House. Now, Sir, "Questions in the House" form an important part of democratic government and when used with wisdom and restraint, they form a very salutary part. But when the right of asking questions is abused and officers thereby intimidated in the conduct of their duties, it ceases to be salutary. I have good reason to believe that the unrestrained use of this, otherwise excellent, weapon has the most unfortunate effect of engendering in the minds of these officers the feeling that every action they may take in the course of their duties, may become subject-matter for a string of questions in this Assembly, by members who, under the guise of defending the liberties of their constituents, are merely using these officers as so many sticks with which to beat the government of the day, upon the floor of this House. What is the result? Well, we all know that Government servants rarely get into trouble for *not* acting and the line of least resistance being extremely tempting, the chances are that officers will endeavour to carry out their duties with the minimum of action. And it is here that the matter of overwork plays its part in reducing the tempo of administration. The

Subdivisional Officer is the pivot of district administration. He is supposed to keep himself in close touch with his Circle Officers and the people generally by making as frequent tours of his jurisdiction as the work of his court will permit. But with the advance of autonomous government, his time has become increasingly occupied in purely office work and unless he is an exceedingly energetic person, he may easily slip into a routine which hardly differs at all from that of a secretariat official—passing files, filling up forms and providing answers to the stream of questions to which I have just referred—questions referring to his own actions or those of his subordinates.

Sir, the many trials and tribulations which have beset this province since Japan entered the war against us have thrown a tremendous extra burden of work on an already over-burdened staff of officers. Mr. Gladding in his recent speech on the general discussion of the Budget made a strong plea that the provinces should not be treated as independent organisms in matters of finance but as so many members of the one body-politic India. I would plead for similar consideration in the matter of personnel. Something in this direction has already been done, but we would like to be assured by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, that everything that can be done, is being done.

Khan Bahadur HAJI BADI AHMED CHOUDHURY: পিয়ন যোগে landlord feeএর নোটিশ জারির সম্বন্ধে যে cut motion আমার নামে আছে আমি সেটা move করিতেছি।

I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100. This is in order to raise a discussion about the execution of notice of landlord fees.

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, প্রজাস্বত্ব হস্তান্তরের সময় জমিদারের নামে যে notice issue করা হয় সেটা পূর্ব্বে রেজেষ্টারী ডাকযোগে পাঠান হইত। পোষ্টাফিসের পিয়ন সেই নোটিশ জমিদার অথবা তার ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্ম্মচারীর নিকট পেঁৗছাইয়া দিত। ফলে জমিদার অথবা তাঁর কর্ম্মচারীর পক্ষে সেটা অস্বীকার করার উপায় ছিল না। এখন সেই প্রথা রদ-বদল হইয়াছে। বর্ত্তমানে রেজেষ্টারী ডাকে পাঠাবার রীতি পরিবর্ত্তন করিয়া পিয়ন যোগে জারি করার রীতি প্রবর্ত্তিত হইয়াছে। ইহাতে প্রজাস্বত্বের খরিদ্দার, জমিদার ও প্রজাগণ সকলেই ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হইতেছে। তাহাদের কি ক্ষতি হইতেছে আপনারা গণ্ডগোল না করিয়া একটু মন দিয়া শুনুন। NAWABJADA K. NASARULLAH: আপনার কথাই বুঝতে পারি না তা শুনবো কি?) আপনারা কবল আলাপ করবেন না, তাহলেই বুঝতে পারবেন। প্রজাস্বত্ব হস্তান্তরের নোটিশটা ঠিকমত জারি না হইলে জমিদারের খাজনার নালিশ করিবার বেলায় নূতন খরিদ্দারের নামে নালিশ করিবার কোন উপায় থাকে না। যে জমিটা যে রায়ত হস্তান্তর করিয়া দিয়াছে সেটার সম্বন্ধে তারও আর কোন খবর নেওয়ার কোন দরকার থাকে না; সুতরাং খরিদ্দারের কবলা সম্বন্ধে জমিদার তাঁর খাজনার নালিশের বেলায় কোন খবর না পাওয়ায় নালিশী জমিটা নীলাম হইয়া যায়। এইরূপে বহু লোকের বহু টাকা নষ্ট হইয়াছে। আইনের বিধান আছে যে কোন মধ্যস্বত্ব হস্তান্তর করিলে জমিদারকে পক্ষ না করিলে সে হস্তান্তর বা নীলাম কার্যকরী হইবে না। পিয়নেরা অনেক ক্ষেত্রে নোটিশ ঠিকমত জারি করে না, অনেক সময় পয়সা পাবার সম্ভাবনা না থাকায় পিয়ন জমিদারের বাড়ী পর্য্যন্ত না যাইয়া রাস্তার মাঝখানে কোন একটা গাছে লট্‌কাইয়া রাখিয়া চলিয়া যায়; এইরূপে জমিদার খরিদ্দারের কোন খবর না পাওয়ায় জমিটা খাজনার টাকার জন্য

নিলামে বিক্রয় হইয়া যায়। এই যে জমিদার ও রায়ত সকলের পক্ষেই অসুবিধা ; এই অসুবিধা নিবারণের জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্টকে অনুরোধ করিতেছি যে পূর্ব্ব নিয়মমত রেজেষ্টারী ডাকযোগে জমিদারের নিকট নোটিশ পেঁৗছাইয়া দেয়া হউক।

এই সঙ্গে মৌলবী গিয়াসুদ্দিন সাহেব যে প্রস্তাব আনয়ন করিয়াছেন যে local-self governing institution হইতে nomination প্রথা উঠাইয়া দেওয়া হউক সে বিষয়ে আমি দুই-চারিটা কথা বলিতেছি। তিনি হয়ত মনে করেন যে nomination প্রথাটা তুলিয়া দিলে দেশবাসী লাভবান হইবে কিন্তু আমি মনে করি, তাহাতে দেশের একটা মহা ক্ষতি হইবে। (A VOICE : হাঁ হাঁ, গোরতর ক্যাতি অইবে !! laughter) আপনারা শুনুন, আমি আপনাদের দেখাইতেছি অনেক ক্ষেত্রে অনেক স্থল আছে—যেখানে একজন উপযুক্ত ব্যক্তির একটা সামান্য ভুলের জন্য তাঁর নাম বাদ গিয়াছে। কিম্বা scrutinyতে তাঁর নাম বাদ পড়িয়াছে অথচ স্থানীয় সকল লোকেই তাঁহাকে চায়, যদি nomination প্রথা না থাকে তাহা হইলে সে লোকের পক্ষে দশের মঙ্গলের জন্য কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানে যাওয়ার সম্ভাবনা থাকিবে না। ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের প্রেসিডেণ্ট নির্ব্বাচনের বেলায় এইটা আরো বেশী বোঝা যায়। যাকে দেশের সকল লোকে চায়—তিনি যদি electionএ না দাঁড়াতে পারেন তাহলে দেশের লোকের তাঁকে পাইবার উপায় কি? সুতরাং আমার বন্ধু গিয়াসুদ্দিন আহমদ সাহেবকে অনুরোধ করি তিনি যেন এ বিষয় চিন্তা করিয়া দেখিয়া তাঁর প্রস্তাবটা উঠাইয়া নেন যাহাতে nomination প্রথাটা বহাল থাকে।

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the cut motions that have been moved. Very important questions have been raised in those cut motions, but, Sir, it has been the fashion of the supporters of Government to say that we the Opposition members always seek only to humiliate and only to expose the Government. They do not believe in our sincerity. We place facts, stern facts but they say without an enquiry into the matter that these facts have no foundation. Sir, I do not demand of them to accept whatever we say, but we pray that they should give fair consideration to what we say. Sir, you know that times without number we raised the question that important privileges of the members in the matter of getting replies to questions asked are always neglected by the Government. I will give you the numbers of the questions. These facts cannot be denied. Unstarred question No. 435 and starred questions Nos. 436, 443, and 439 which were admitted and sent to the administrative departments concerned on 24th June, 1943, 24th June, 1943, 25th June, 1943, and 28th June, 1943, respectively, have not been replied to yet. They relate to very important matters, namely, regarding information about assault in jail, allowances to security prisoners and other jail grievances. These are questions, Sir, which were put in the session before last. In the last session starred questions Nos. 531, 532, 534 and 535 were sent to the administrative departments concerned on 7th September, 1943, 7th September, 1943, 8th September, 1943 and 10th September, 1943; they have not been replied to yet. In this very session, I sent notice of two short-notice questions, namely, starred questions Nos. 275 and 276; they were sent to the departments concerned on 10th February, 1944, and I was given intimation communicating the refusal of consent on the 29th February, 1944, and the 2nd March, 1944, not to speak of other questions which were asked this session. This is how the Government are trying to shelve matters only to save them from being exposed.

Then, Sir, I come to the question of election and nomination in the union boards. Irregularity, illegality and an improper way of conducting things have been a regular habit of Circle Officers, and Subdivisional Officers concerned. Now, Sir, in a large number of union boards in Dinajpur the existing presidents became unpopular. During the last general election they were all defeated and invariably the Circle Officers recommended—I do not know the reason why—their nomination and those nominations were accepted by the Government. There were cases where the elected members died just after the general election. These facts were promptly brought to the notice of the authorities. But even when the election of the presidents took place after two long years of the general elections, the bye-elections in those vacancies caused by the death of members were not arranged only to help these presidents who were defeated in the general election and who became unpopular. For the purpose of supporting these defeated presidents nominations were given to persons who promised support to these candidates. Now, Sir, in giving nominations the whole area, the whole constituency was not taken into consideration. Nomination was given from the same particular area though there were members who were elected from that area. In giving nominations Scheduled Castes' claims were ignored.

Regarding relief work conducted by a Subdivisional Officer of my district we all came to know yesterday when a reply to my question was given by the Government that a Subdivisional Officer of a particular subdivision realised Rs. 22,000 from certain persons. In Dinajpur which was declared to be a surplus district, thousands of people had been living on *kachhu* roots and starving and there were reports coming that in a village consisting of 12 families 19 persons died of starvation. The Subdivisional Officer though he realised that large amount, sat tight over it, and did not try to do what was necessary for giving relief to those starving people. Only Rs. 4,000 was spent so far and this information was given and the money was kept in a sealed box in the treasury only when there was some agitation and a question asked about it This is how things go on in a mufassil district.

(At this stage the member having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: Sir, আমি মিঃ রায় যে cut motion move করেছেন সেইটা support করছি। আমি বলতে চাই বর্ত্তমানে যে Ministry আছে তাঁর জন্য ব্যয়ের কথাটা। প্রথমে যাঁরা Minister ছিলেন তাঁদের জন্য সাড়ে তিন লক্ষ টাকা বছরে খরচ হতো। ঐ টাকা পরে ৪ লক্ষ হয়; তার পরে হয়েছে ৭ লক্ষ, তার পরে বাড়িয়ে ৭ $\frac{১}{২}$ লক্ষ টাকা করা হয়েছে। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই আগে যখন পালিয়ামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারী কম ছিল তখন, মন্ত্রীরা স্বয়ং উপস্থিত থেকে প্রশ্নের উত্তর দিতেন, পরিষদের বক্তৃতাগুলি শোনার চেষ্টা করতেন, কিন্তু বর্ত্তমানে ১৭টি পালিয়ামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারী হবার পরে ওঁরা মোটেই হাউসে আসেন না, সব কিছুই ওঁরা পালিয়ামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারীদের উপর ছেড়ে দেন। ওঁরা শুধু হাউসে আসেন দু-চারজন ভোটারকে হাতে রেখে মন্ত্রিত্বটা বজায় রাখার জন্য; সেইটা বজায় থাকলেই হলো। আমি জানতে চাই এই সব পালিয়ামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারীদের কি কাজ আছে? কাজের মধ্যে এখানে এসে মাইনে নেওয়া আর দেশে-গ্রামে যেয়ে ফুলের মালা নেওয়া এ ছাড়া আর কি আছে? গ্রামে গ্রামে চিঠি লিখে প্রথমে বলা হয়—"পালিয়ামেণ্টারী

সেক্রেটারী অমুক তারিখে অমুক গ্রামে আসছেন"। গ্রামের ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের মেম্বরগণ তখন মনে করে কি জানি, যদি ওঁকে তোয়াজ না করা যায় তাহলে হয়তো সর্ব্বনাশ হবে। সেইজন্য তারা গরীবদের কাছ থেকে চাঁদা তুলে ফুলের মালার যোগাড় করে (Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: ফুলের সঙ্গে আরও কি কিছু দিতে হয় না?) এইত আমরা এখানে রায় মহাশয়ের কাছ থেকে শুনলাম যে ১২ শো টাকা পর্য্যন্ত এই ফুলের মালার জন্য খরচ হয়েছে (Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: খাওয়ার জন্যও বটে!) এর মধ্যে আর একটা বড় allegation এই যে এঁরা মাইনে পান গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: heavily.) আমার বন্ধু বলছেন সে মাইনেও পান heavily, কিন্তু আশ্চর্য্যের বিষয় এই—জনৈক পালিয়ামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারী এখানেও মাইনে পান, আবার co-operative থেকেও দেড়শো টাকা মাইনে পান, এইরূপে দুই জায়গায় থেকে কি ক'রে তিনি মাইনের টাকা realise করেন? (Khan Bahadur ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: মাইনে নয়, allowance পান) allowance পান আর যাই পান, কিন্তু টাকাটাই তো পান।

আর একটা কথা আমি জানতে চাই—পালিয়ামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারী নিযুক্ত হওয়ার পর থেকে আজ পর্য্যন্ত কোন কোন departmentএর কি কি উন্নতি তারা করেছেন সে সম্বন্ধে একটা ফিরিস্তি Chief Minister দেবেন কি না? ওঁরা দেশের কি কি মঙ্গল করেছেন সেই মঙ্গলটার পরিমাণ কত, আর ওঁরা যে tourএ যান সে বাবদে যে ব্যয় হয় সেই খরচেরই বা পরিমাণ কত? (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: শুধু নিজেরা নন ভৃত্যবৃন্দ সহকারে,) আমাদের সান্যাল মহাশয় বলছেন—"কুষ্টিয়ায় এখান থেকে বেড়াতে গিয়েছিলেন সঙ্গে ৮ জন servant গিয়েছিলেন। সামান্য একজন মিনিষ্টার মাত্র হয়ে ৮ জন servant নিয়ে যে সেখানে গিয়েছিলেন ঐ টাকাটা কোথা থেকে আসে? এই যে খরচটা বেড়ে চলেছে এই খরচটা আসবে কোথা থেকে? বর্ত্তমানে কৃষকদের উপর ট্যাক্স বসান হয়েছে, sales tax হয়েছে তার পরে আরো কত ট্যাক্স বসাবে। ওঁরা মনে করছেন আমাদের তো ১৭ জন পালিয়ামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারী আছেই, আমাদের আত্মীয়স্বজন আরো ১০।১৫ আছে, উপরের দিকে আমরা আছি, সাদায় কালোর খিচুড়ি করে আমরা Ministry বজায় রাখতে পারবই—ভাঙ্গবে কার সাধ্য? অতএব আমরা যতই খরচ বাড়িয়ে যাবো, কারু কিছু করবার সাধ্য হবে না। যেভাবে নাকি শোনা যায়, Civil Supply Department থেকে যেভাবে আরো মোটা হবার ব্যবস্থা ওঁরা করছেন, তাতে ভবিষ্যতে দেশের আরো কি অবস্থা হবে কে জানে। ওঁদের এক এক জনের bank balance কত বেড়ে গিয়েছে, আগে যা ছিল তা থেকে এখন ক গুণ বেড়েছে? Minister থেকে আরম্ভ করে পালিয়ামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারীদের সম্বন্ধে যদি ব্যাঙ্কে খবর লওয়া যায় তাহলে খুব সম্ভব দেখা যাবে যে ওঁদের প্রত্যেকেরই Bank balance বেড়ে গিয়েছে। ঐ টাকা তাঁরা কোথায় পেলেন? আর একটা গোপন খবর আজকে সুস্পষ্টভাবে দিতে পারছি না—কোন একটা কোম্পানীর ৫ লক্ষ না ৭ লক্ষ টাকার বিল আটকে আছে, সেটা আটকে আছে সামান্য একটা ভুলের জন্য। যদি একটা কিছু "বন্দোবস্ত" করা হয় তাহলেই সেটা পাশ করা হবে। যদি আজকালের মধ্যেই enquiry করা যায় তাহলেই এই বিলটা বেরিয়ে পড়বে। তাই আমি বলছি বাংলা দেশের টাকা ছিনিমিনি খেলিয়ে যে ১৭ জন পালিয়ামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারী নিয়ে এখানে ওঁরা বসে থাকতে চান সেটা আমরা কেউ সহ্য করবো না,—আমরা ওঁদের বের করে দেবো।

Maulvi WALIUR RAHMAN: Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my honourable friend, Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed, regarding the abolition of nomination in local bodies.

The system of nomination is a pernicious one. It not only negatives the very effect of election but also frustrates the very object of such self-governing local bodies. It is nothing but an authority to the officials to officialise such local bodies and turn a local body to be a camouflage of the same. Nobody, however, qualified, upright, honest or public spirited he might be, can get into a local body through nomination unless he is in the good books of the local officers of his place. From my own experience I can narrate one particular instance which will go to show how nominations are made by local officers. Once in the capacity of Chairman of the Jessore District Board I objected to the nomination of one particular person suggested by the Subdivisional Officer on the ground that the man was known to be unscrupulous, dishonest and of questionable character——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Waliur Rahman, you appear to talk very fluently in English although you spoke in Bengali yesterday. Henceforth I hope you will continue to speak in English.

Maulvi WALIUR RAHMAN: Sir, I can manage to speak in English but I can express myself much better in my own language. As you desire, however, I shall continue to speak in English.

Sir, I was saying that the system of nomination is a pernicious one because by this system the majority party can sometimes be converted into a minority one, and a person who has absolutely got no chance of getting himself elected can manage to find a place in a local body only by supporting all the actions of officials, right or wrong.

Now, Sir, I shall refer to the particular incident which I was just going to place before you. I enquired of the Subdivisional Officer as to why he was nominating him He said that he had to support his nomination on the ground that he was a consistent supporter of Government officers not excluding the police officers, and that he adduced evidence in a criminal case which was nothing but full of deliberate falsehood so that the police could get the conviction of a number of communists who were involved in that case. He was a person who followed the officers always like a shadow behind them and who could always satisfy the whims and caprices of them. Sir, this is an instance which will fully justify my statement that unless and until anybody can satisfy the whims and caprices of the officers he has no chance to get himself appointed as a member in any local body. Under the circumstances, Sir, I think this pernicious system should be abolished altogether and I wholeheartedly support the motion of my honourable friend, Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed.

Dr. GOBINDA CHANDRA BHAWMIK: আজকাল প্রধানত: আমরা দেখছি দুইটি বিভাগ খুব তাড়াতাড়ি গড়ে উঠেছে। Civil Supplies Department এবং Relief Department. Civil Supplies Departmentএ দেখা যায় চুরি ছাড়া আর কিছুই হয় না। তারপর যাদের relief পাওয়া উচিত তারা relief পাচ্ছে না। বর্তমান সময়ে districtএ যে সব officer খাদ্য বিতরণ করেন তাঁদের মনোনীত লোক ছাড়া আর কেউ খাদ্য পায় না। এই সমস্ত relief officer অধিকাংশ স্থলেই গরীবের অন্ন মারছেন। গভর্ণমেণ্টের টাকা হয়ত খরচ হয়েছে কাগজে-কলমে কিন্তু প্রকৃত উদ্দেশ্য সাধিত হয় নাই। পুলিশ, কোর্ট, রিলিফ ইত্যাদি যেখানেই যান

টাকা ছাড়া কোন কাজ হয় না। তাছাড়া এদের আদর্শ দেখা যায় অত্যন্ত নিম্নস্তরের। কাজেই General Administrationএর যদি উন্নতি করতে হয় তাহলে ভাল লোক দ্বারা চেষ্টা করুন। যে সমস্ত Parliamentary Secretary নেওয়া হয়েছে তা কেবল partyকে support করবার জন্য—এদের public lifeএ কোন অস্তিত্ব আছে কি না সন্দেহ।

Midnapore District Boardএ ১৪ বছর ধরে একজন Chairman আছেন। ১৪ বছরের মধ্যে election হয় নাই, যদিও local boardএর একবার election হয়ে গেছে। অনেক জায়গায় local board উঠিয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে। এই ১৪ বছর ধরে একজনের কায়েমী স্বত্ব দ্বারা অতি জঘন্য কুশাসন চলছে। বাংলার হাওয়া নানা রকমে দূষিত। মেদিনীপুরের প্রত্যেক নরনারীকে জিজ্ঞাসা করুন কেমন আছেন—সকলেই বলবে এই গভর্ণমেণ্ট যত শীঘ্র যায় ততই ভাল, এমন গভর্ণমেণ্ট থাকার চেয়ে না থাকা ভাল এমন গভর্ণমেণ্ট অতি শীঘ্র ধ্বংস হয়ে যাক ইহাই আমাদের কাম্য।

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 6-45 p.m. till 3-30 p.m. on Friday, the 17th March, 1944, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 17th March, 1944, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 13 Hon'ble Ministers and 205 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

District Magistrate and Additional District Magistrate of Bakarganj.

***172. Mr. UPENDRA NATH EDBAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether the District Magistrate and the Additional District Magistrate of the district of Bakarganj belong to the same community?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of posting some officer belonging to some other community in place of any one of the said officers?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us to what community these two Magistrates belong?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: They are both Muslims.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to reply (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us when they are going to find a Magistrate of a different community here?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He is being transferred not because a Magistrate of another community will be posted, but he is being promoted to another district very soon.

Khan Bahadur SHAH ABDUR RAUF: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether two men of the Hindu community are not posted in the same district?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The answer is in the affirmative.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long the Additional District Magistrate has been working in the district?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any definite period laid down for a District Magistrate or an Additional District Magistrate to remain in a particular district?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Is it not a fact that the Additional District Magistrate has been working in the district for more than three years?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice, but he is due to be transferred very soon.

Arrest and release of Babu Gour Chandra Saha.

***173. Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that—

(*i*) Babu Gour Chandra Saha, an ex-political prisoner of Dacca, was arrested in his father-in-law's place at Kamalaghat on the 22nd January, 1944, by the 4th officer of Munshiganj thana;

(*ii*) on arrival at the Munshiganj thana he was abused and assaulted by the officers and constables of the thana;

(*iii*) he was detained the whole night in the thana lock-up; and

(*iv*) he was released the next morning?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the reasons of his arrest?

(*c*) If the answers to (*a*) (*ii*) to (*iv*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken or are proposed to be taken in the matter?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*)(*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) No.

(*iii*) Yes; as no one stood surety for him.

(*iv*) Yes; when a muktear stood surety for him.

(*b*) He was arrested on information that he had been concealing his presence at Kamalaghat with the intention of committing crime.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*b*), is the Government aware that the father-in-law of Babu Gour Chandra Saha at whose place he was arrested is a big businessman of Kamalaghat?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of that.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Babu Gour Chandra Saha carries an extensive import and order supplying business at Dacca and at Kamalaghat and that on the day of the occurrence he was at his father-in-law's place in connection with his own business?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: May I submit, Sir, that the question does arise, because Government has said that he had been concealing his presence at Kamalaghat with the intention of committing crime.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, I am sorry.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Gour Chandra Saha was involved in a case in 1937. He was arrested under section 392, I.P.C., robbery, and

sentenced in this connection to rigorous imprisonment for 5 years and was fined Rs. 1,000. He had been under detention from 1937 to 1943 and, therefore, the statement of the honourable member that he has been carrying on business is not correct.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, my question is this: is the Government aware that he is at present carrying on a big business there?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: My information is otherwise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that during the time Babu Gour Chandra Saha was at his father-in-law's place he was freely and openly moving about in connection with business?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state of what sort of crime Government had suspected this gentleman?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He was once convicted for robbery and sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether the police investigation in this case has been completed?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any other person was arrested in connection with the alleged contemplated crime?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will it be possible for the Hon'ble Minister to give us definitely the nature of the crime he was contemplating to commit?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He was arrested under section 54, Cr. P. C.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*a*)(*ii*), is the Government aware that the said Babu Gour Chandra Saha even today bears the mark of personal injury inflicted by the Police?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of it.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Was Babu Gour Chandra Saha personally examined to elicit the real information about the allegation made in this question?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government is considering the desirability of instituting a proper enquiry into the incident allowing Babu Gour Chandra Saha to place his case before the authority that is constituted for the purpose?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Investigation of what? There has been no complaint.

Alleged prosecution of certain Muslims in Tamluk subdivision.

*174. **Khan Bahadur ALFAZUDDIN AHMED:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware of the fact that the Muslims who went to protect the Sutahata thana in the Tamluk subdivision of the Midnapore district during last September against Congress mob, were prosecuted by the Police on a charge of attacking the thana?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action has been taken in the matter?

(c) If no action has been taken as yet, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Supply of paddy seeds in Bengal.

*175. **Mr. HEM CHANDRA NASKAR:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state the quantity of paddy seeds supplied to different districts of the Province?

(b) Is it a fact that—

(i) these seeds did not germinate in many of these districts; and

(ii) the Gosaba seeds supplied to Sagore police-station in the 24-Parganas did not grow at all and that a large tract of land in that area remains uncultivated?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, Government are taking or propose to take to supply good seeds this year?

(d) Is it a fact that many of the growers and cultivators could not get supply of paddy seeds from the Government?

(e) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain): (a) A statement, showing the quantity of seeds supplied in the different districts, is laid on the Library Table.

(b) (i) Germination of some of the seeds distributed was not satisfactory. Purchase and distribution had to be made at short notice and on a gigantic scale last year. The staff was also inadequate and not used to work of such magnitude. The seeds supplied in some places were, therefore, not of good quality.

(ii) No Gosaba seed was distributed by the Agriculture Department in police-station Sagore. Some Gosaba seeds were distributed by the Collector of 24-Parganas, and the germination of some of these seeds was slightly affected as a result of transport difficulties.

(c) Arrangements are now being made for purchase and storing of good seeds for distribution in 1944-45. Government have sanctioned the purchase of 30,000 maunds of *aus* and 142,000 maunds of *aman* paddy seeds for the purpose.

(*d*) Government could not possibly supply seeds to all the growers. Only those who were in extreme need were supplied.

(*e*) Does not arise.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the seeds supplied were at all tested in the Agriculture Department before they were supplied?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Yes, they were tested.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who were the agencies who purchased these seeds?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: The District Agricultural Officers purchased the seeds.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state wherefrom these seeds were purchased?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: They were purchased generally in the district itself.

Khan Bahadur SHAH ABDUR RAUF: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what kinds of *aman* paddy are being procured?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: This year we are only procuring departmental *aman* seeds.

Khan Bahadur SHAH ABDUR RAUF: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of different kinds of seeds?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I want notice.

Babu MADHUSADAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government compensated those persons whose seeds did not grow satisfactorily?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: No.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the *aman* paddy seeds for 1943-44 were distributed?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: From the month of June.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in Eastern Bengal districts where deep water *aman* paddy is grown, deep water *aman* paddy seeds were distributed?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Very little.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that deep water *aman* paddy seeds are sown in the months of *Falgoon* and *Chaitra*?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Yes.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be *pleased to state at what rate the aman seeds are being purchased in the moffussil this year?*

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: The price fixed was Rs. 13—Rs. 14 for *aus*, but now it has been increased to Rs. 16.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that, in the mofassil, specially in the district of Rangpur, the market rate of paddy seeds practically varies from Rs. 6 to Rs. 7 per maund?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I do not think so.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKER: Is the Hon'ble Minister in a position to set up an enquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I will enquire if the honourable member wants it.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of distributing deep water paddy seeds in large quantities?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Only if there is demand for it.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: With reference to answer (*b*)(*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the proportion of seeds whose germination was affected?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I am not in a position to say. Those paddy seeds were distributed by the Collector and the Department had nothing to do with them.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has obtained any information from the Collector as to the proportion of seeds affected?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Report was received from the Collector that it was affected.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that at the present moment seeds are being purchased from the market whether they are fit for germinating purposes or not?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: A germination test is always made before seeds are purchased.

Khan Bahadur ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the arrangements for the storing of good seeds and whether they are stored in each subdivisional or district headquarters?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: The scheme for building seeds store houses has just been sanctioned and we are trying to secure these store houses or godowns in every subdivision.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Is there any controlled rate for the purchase of seeds?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Yes, there is, but it does not arise out of the question.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware of the fact that some system is in vogue in many parts of the country where a particular kind of seed is necessary?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: The Department has decided that the Government policy should be only to procure departmental seeds and distribute them. In certain districts, certain quantity is allotted to particular subdivisions. Beyond that, ordinary seeds Government does not undertake to purchase and distribute unless there is any real scarcity on account of any agricultural disaster.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if we are to understand that the Government do not undertake any responsibility at all for the supply of seeds of broadcasting varieties?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: If there are departmental seeds of broadcasting varieties, they are distributing them also.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is his information whether there are seeds of broadcasting varieties available in Bengal or not?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I am not in a position to say without making an enquiry.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to say whether any private organisation or party has been engaged for the purchase of seeds to be distributed?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Tenders are called for and purchases made from contractors.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: With reference to answer (*d*), will the Government be pleased to state what is the test of the need?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: The report of the local officers is the test of the need.

Sj. MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA: With reference to answer (*e*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us an idea of the arrangements?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: As I have said, there will be a seed store in every subdivision and there the purchased seeds will be stored for distribution in time.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the procedure adopted for the distribution of seeds last year?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Last year the whole thing had to be done hurriedly and there was practically no procedure. District Agricultural Officers were entrusted with the task of procuring seeds and making over to demonstrators for distribution. Through these demonstrators distribution was made to parts of the province which were absolutely in need of them.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in view of the last famine and in view of the fact that almost all the *aus* paddy has been consumed by the grower the 30,000 maunds is wholly inadequate for the purpose?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: That was the departmental policy. We could not get more than 30,000 maunds of departmental seeds. Ordinary seeds would be purchased from traders by agriculturists and so Government have arranged that agricultural loans will be given liberally for the purchase of ordinary seeds.

Mr. MD. ABUL FAZL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, in view of the late arrival of seeds last year, what steps Government intend to take to see that proper distribution is made in 1944-45?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Last year sanction was not obtained till after we took charge of the Ministry, i.e., it was obtained in the month of May whereas this year we have already given sanction in the month of December. Sanction has been given and purchases are already being made and therefore the distribution will be in time.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the approximate date when the distribution will be made this year.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Just before the sowing time.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the departmental seeds are from the departmental farms or from elsewhere?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: It is from farms as also from registered cultivators who have grown departmental seeds on their own land.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: In view of the fact that the season time is at hand, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is ready to distribute seeds at present?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Yes, it is ready.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: In view of the answer just now given by the Hon'ble Minister that no compensation was given to those whose seeds did not germinate, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government considers it desirable to make an enquiry and compensate those people whose seeds did not germinate?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I do not think there was any case in which the seeds did not germinate at all, but the percentage of germination might have been less than what it should have been. Government does not intend to make any enquiry *suo motu* but if any case is brought to the notice of the Government, it will see what can be done.

Sj. MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA: May I enquire of the Hon'ble Minister if any step has been taken against any District Agricultural Officer responsible for procuring bad seeds?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Several of the Demonstrators were dismissed, one or two were suspended and some District Agricultural Officers were reprimanded, so far as I know.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on what basis the seeds would be distributed? Will it be on the last year's *soa* basis or on a changed basis?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: These departmental seeds will be distributed on alternate methods: the agriculturists will be asked either to purchase, if they can, on payment of cash price, but if they are not prepared to pay the price in cash they would be given loan on *dera* basis, that is, if they take 1 maund this year, they will have to return 1½ maunds next year, or, in the alternative, the actual price of the seed at which Government purchased it.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: In view of the answer just now given, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the *soa* basis has been raised to *dera* basis this year?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Because the difference was so great that the loss to Government would otherwise be extremely heavy.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Compensation paid to victims of enemy bombing.

79. Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the total number of compensation claims caused by the casualties from bombing of 5th December, 1943;

(*ii*) what has been the total amount granted on this score;

(*iii*) how much time is needed from the date of the incident to the date of payment to the injured or his dependants;

(*iv*) whether any amount has been actually paid on this account by the 1st of February, 1944; and

(*v*) if so, how much?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

(*i*) what steps have been taken for the identification of those who lost their lives from the last bombing;

(*ii*) how many of the dead have been identified and the relatives informed; and

(*iii*) whether the dependants of the deceased are sent at Government cost to their homes if they so desire?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE, LABOUR and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Shahabuddin): (*a*) (*i*) Total number of claims, 136—

Temporary allowance—81.
Disability pension—6.
Family pension and/or children's allowance—49.

(*ii*) Total amount awarded so far amounts to Rs.350-8 for temporary allowance and Rs.58-8 per mensem for family pension and/or children's allowance.

(*iii*) The time required for disposing of a claim case under the War Injuries Scheme depends upon several factors. If the medical certificate, the gainfully occupied person's certificate and the identification reports are available along with the application, an award can be given forthwith. The awards are delayed if the dependants of the deceased persons live outside the Province on account of the time taken in verifying the dependants.

(*iv*) No information is available as payments are made through the post offices.

(*v*) Does not arise.

(*b*) (*i*) Reports from various hospitals, first aid posts, cremation and burial grounds were daily collected by the Post Raid Information Services and information wanted by any member of the public regarding any person killed in air raid was made available from the respective information offices. The Police also took photographs of many of the unidentified dead bodies, which are preserved in the Post Raid Information Office at Pollock House, Pollock Street, Calcutta, and shown to enquirers.

(*ii*) Eighty-five dead have been identified and relatives informed.

(*iii*) No. They are allowed to stay in relief centres for three days and are provided with free food. They are, however, required to make their own arrangements after that.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the total amount of Rs. 350-8 for temporary allowance related to the 81 cases concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I have nothing further to add.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of disabled persons caused by bombing?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, the question is, what is the total number of compensation claims caused by the casualties from bombing of 5th December, 1943, to which an answer has been given. The total number of casualties has not been asked for and I cannot give the figure off-hand. I think the question does not arise.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, disability pension has been granted only to six persons and therefore my question is, how many persons have been disabled by bombing.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, my answer is clear that out of 136 claims six have been given disability pension.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: With reference to answer (*a*)(*i*), I have put, Sir, a pointed question, namely, how many persons were disabled by bombing so that we may ascertain out of how many cases disability pension has been given to six cases?

(No answer.)

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: With reference to answer (*b*)(*ii*), how many dead bodies have not been identified?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I want notice.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that for want of proper facilities for identification a large number of dead bodies remained unidentified?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I am not aware of that.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether sufficient opportunity was given and due notice was given so that people could identify the dead bodies?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I suppose so.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Is it a fact that just after the bombing of Hatibagan area many disabled bodies were immediately removed by the military without any opportunity being given in the first instance for identification?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I am unable to give any answer to that question because that happened during the regime of the last Ministry.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: With regard to family pension, what is the maximum allowance given to each family?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I want notice.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: With reference to answer (*b*)(*iii*), when an earning member is killed by bombing, has the Government thought it desirable to send his dependants home at Government cost?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Government give them assistance.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the basis and what are the considerations upon which these pensions and allowances are granted?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: On the basis of the scheme drawn up by Government.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the claim allowable under the War Injuries Scheme is extremely insufficient?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: That is a matter of opinion, but Government are prepared to examine that question.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the figures mentioned in answer to (*a*)(*i*) are in regard to industrial labourers or to the entire casualty as a result of that bombing?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: It is the total number of claims received up to that date.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the number of labourers involved in this bombing?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I want notice for that.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell the House, with reference to the answer given by him just now, how many families have been sent at Government cost?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I will not be able to answer that off-hand.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: I misunderstood the answer. My question was whether Government thinks it desirable that while the earning member of the family——

Mr. SPEAKER: That he has already replied.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: I understood him saying that Government is sending them at Government cost.

Mr. SPEAKER: He never said that.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many claims out of 136 have been granted?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I will not be able to tell off-hand.

Number of non-political security prisoners in Bengal.

80. Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of persons now in detention as non-political security prisoners in the Province;

(*ii*) the number of persons so detained for more than (1) two years, (2) three years, (3) four years, and (4) five years;

(*iii*) the reasons for such detention;

(*iv*) the provisions made for families and dependants of such prisoners;

(*v*) whether any machinery exists for periodic examination of the cases of such prisoners with a view to their release and other facilities;

(*vi*) whether charges against these prisoners are made known to them;

(*vii*) whether opportunities are provided for their explaining themselves and meeting such charges; and

(*viii*) what provisions, if any, have been made for extending facilities to such prisoners for better equipment in life?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state Government's attitude towards the question of releasing such prisoners in general?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*)(*i*) 2,539 on the 31st January, 1944.

(*ii*) The information asked for is not readily available.

(*iii*) They have been detained with a view to preventing them from acting in any manner prejudicial to the defence of British India, the public safety, the maintenance of public order and the efficient prosecution of the war.

(*iv*) The considerations of their detention are regulated by rule 72 of the B. S. P. Rules, 1940, of which a copy is in the Library, and according to those conditions they are entitled to treatment as Division III convicts provided in the Bengal Jail Code, except Chapter XXI of the said Code. These persons had no fixed place of residence and no ostensible means of subsistence. No provision has been made for their families and dependants as there is no provision for it in the said code for Division III convicts.

(*v*) It has been decided to appoint a retired District and Sessions Judge to review the cases of all criminal security prisoners.

(*vi*) and (*vii*) This will now be done under section 7 of the Restriction and Detention Ordinance, 1944.

(*viii*) and (*b*) The prisoners are habitual criminals of the *goonda* class whose being at large in Calcutta, Howrah and the suburbs in the present black-out condition would be a very serious menace to the life and property of the innocent citizen. I regret the necessity of keeping the men under detention and will certainly see that they are released as soon as it is safe to do so.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (*a*)(*v*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us the date when the decision was taken and when the actual appointment is expected?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The approval of His Excellency was received on the 2nd March and therefore the appointment is going to be made very soon.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is aware that wives of many of these prisoners on account of long separation and want of subsistence allowance have taken new husbands?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government is not aware of that.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have received various applications from prisoners—one class of prisoners being residents of provinces outside Bengal —and they have stated in their applications that they want never to remain in this province and go back to their own provinces?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of releasing those prisoners who are in detention for more than two years subject to the restriction that they will not enter into Calcutta, Howrah and the suburbs, as referred to in the answer?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already stated that a machinery is being set up to examine the cases of these criminal security prisoners and a retired District and Sessions Judge will be presiding over the body. Therefore, that question does not arise because all these cases will be put up before the revising machinery.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that from various prisons Superintendents have recommended a large number of cases for immediate release and that Government have not yet passed orders upon those recommendations?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: All these cases will be referred to that revising authority.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Pending the revision of the cases, do Government consider the desirability of revising the rules as to the treatment of these detenus in jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There is no such proposal before the Government.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the hardship caused to their families will Government consider it desirable that the provision of granting allowance to their families and dependants should be revised?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There is no provision for grant of family allowance to criminal security prisoners.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will Government consider the desirability of revising the rules?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer "I regret the necessity of keeping the men under detention and will certainly see that they are released as soon as it is safe to do so" will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the reason then for appointing a retired District Judge for reviewing their cases?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Just to see whether a case is safe enough for release.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of these security prisoners were killed and how many of them were wounded during the last shooting in the Berhampore Jail?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that these prisoners are illegally compelled to labour against their will although that is a criminal offence under section 174, I.P.C.?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of it.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether a number of these security prisoners have been shot dead or wounded by shooting?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise out of this.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, this is a question which has been deliberately kept back by Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not arise.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what provisions there are for keeping these prisoners in occupation?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I refer the honourable member to the Bengal Jail Code and rule 77 of the Bengal Security Prisoners' Rules.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is it a fact that in some of these jails such prisoners are made to work against the Jail Code whereas in other jails there is no work provided for them?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Nothing is done against the provisions of the Jail Code.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any one of these security prisoners are detained in the Berhampore Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pelased to state the number of these security prisoners in the Berhampore Jail six months back and their present number?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether representations have been received by Government from such prisoners that unless the question of their release is considered quickly, they will resort to hunger-strike?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in one of these jails, as a matter of fact, there was a hunger-strike?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Message from the Bengal Legislative Council.

Secretary then read the following message:—

"That the concurrence of the Bengal Legislative Assembly be asked to the Bengal Public Gambling (Amendment) Bill, 1944, as passed by the Bengal Legislative Council at its meeting held on the 18th February, 1944."

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

25—General Administration.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about the deterioration in the communal situation in the province due mainly to—

(*i*) non-adherance to the provisions and the spirit of the communal ratio in the Services Rules,

(*ii*) introduction of communal consideration in the selection of contractors and approved dealers and agents,

(*iii*) persistence in legislation affecting the interests of a particular community without seeking their co-operation and general agreement.

Sir, it is not without a certain amount of hesitation that I invite the attention of the House to this important problem. Sir, I would very much like the Chief Minister to be present here during this discussion.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am taking notes. Don't worry.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chief Minister is absent with my permission.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, when this new Ministry came into office we made it clear as we have been emphasising ever since the new constitution came into force that so far as the Congress is concerned we place communal harmony above everything else in the country. It was mainly because in our view it is on the basis of communal harmony alone that India's independence can be secured. When Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin had certain informal discussion with various party leaders before his Ministry was formed, we emphasised that, so far as we were concerned, we shall look up to his Government if he could compose any to maintain communal harmony above everything else, and if communal harmony and the civil liberties were maintained irrespective of persons or personalities we might be prepared to examine the actions of the Ministry on their merit.

Today, Sir, I stand to invite the attention of the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin to the position to which the country has been reduced by certain action that has been perpetuated for some time past and which his Government also has allowed to continue and which, in our humble opinion, has further deteriorated the communal situation in this province.

The first item of our objective is what is known as the communal ratio in the Services Rules or the Bengal Services Recruitment (Communal Ratio) Rules of 1940. The rules have a long history behind them. The responsibility for promulgating these rules lies mainly upon certain members not merely of this House but also outside, some of whom have been prominently taking part in this demand ever since the new constitution was brought into operation. And my grievance about the formation of the clauses of the rules would be taken up at a different stage. What I now want to invite your attention to is the application of those provisions, rightly or wrongly promulgated, for securing the interest of particular minority communities or majority in this province.

Communal ratio in the Services Rules provided that these rules would not apply to promotions and promotions would continue to be determined purely on merit. It has been brought to our notice, however, that Government has been circumventing the application of merit alone as the consideration for promotion by holding up a large number of vacancies for a pretty long time and promotions are not being proceeded with as and when they are due.

The second provision that has in our humble opinion been infringed is with regard to the provision in proviso to clause 9 of the rules, that in case of direct recruitment if the qualified candidates of any community are insufficient in any year to fill all the posts reserved for that community, the vacancies left unfilled shall, without regard being had to the interest of any community, be filled in accordance with the result of the competitive examination by qualified candidates of other communities in order of merit and no deduction on that account shall be made from the vacancies reserved to be filled by competitive examination in that service, department or office or branch of that service, department or office in subsequent years.

This proviso also is attached to clause 10 of the rules where direct recruitment otherwise than by competitive examination is provided. The net result of this proviso is that in any particular year the total number of vacancies are to be determined and the percentage to be applicable for different communities would also be known, so that in the event of candidates of a particular community not forthcoming, the service would be thrown open to members of other communities that may have qualified candidates.

I submit, Sir, that this rule in many cases is not being followed. The number of vacancies are allowed to accumulate to the detriment and prejudice of suitable qualified candidates of other communities.

The third complaint that I want to lodge is with regard to the recruitment of non-Bengalis. Sir, there is no provision in the Communal Services Rules which entitles the Government to hold back an appointment meant for a particular community from other communities on the plea that they would go to other provinces outside Bengal for obtaining suitable candidates.

(At this stage the blue light was lit.)

Sir, I would like to have another 7 minutes' time.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, Dr. Sanyal, I cannot allow that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All right, allow me 5 minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have yet got two minutes' time. All right, you go on.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The other point that we find has been infringed is with regard to the Scheduled Castes. It was provided, Sir, that 15 per cent. of the services would go to Scheduled Castes. While the Government have been meticulously careful about certain communities, the Scheduled Castes, among the Hindus, are generally going by default.

It is stated that suitable candidates are not forthcoming. If that standard is to be applied, I believe the community that had the largest percentage reserved would also suffer in the same way, if not in a more deplorable manner than the Scheduled Castes.

I will pass on to the next point, viz., the introduction of communal considerations in the selection of contractors, etc. But before doing so I would submit that in regard to the Communal Ratio in the Services Rules various objections were raised about the applicability of these rules to technical and expert services. We expected that having regard to an informal assurance given by a previous Government, so far as posts that required skill and technical knowledge went, Government would see that the Communal Ratio in the Services Rules did not stand in the way of getting the best men possible. I have before me an advertisement published in the *Calcutta Gazette* a few weeks ago where the post of Professor of Clinical and Operative Surgery, Calcutta Medical College, and Surgeon, Medical College Hospital, has been reserved for Muslims only. I would not quarrel with any candidate if he has got the best qualifications among the community, but I submit that where the life of the present generation is involved and the teaching of the younger generation for future expert work is concerned it is really not fair or wise to introduce

communal considerations, and no community would ultimately gain if such insistence is made. Further I find that in the Dacca Intermediate College, the Professor of Physics has been advertised for Muslims only. The Professor of Physiology in the Calcutta Presidency College had also been reserved for Muslims, as a result of which, having no suitable Muslim candidate available, for the last three years the post has remained vacant. The students of today have no opportunity of getting proper training and teaching from a qualified Professor because no Muslim is available! Similarly there is one post of Superintendent of the Bengal Vaccine Institute, an expert post; on the production of this Institute, the lives of millions of our countrymen are dependent. That post has been reserved for Muslims, the result of which is that we are likely to lose the services of an eminent expert who has been in that work for years past.

Coming to the second issue, I had invited the attention of this House to the fact that during the regime of the present Ministry in the notification of Government, dated the 9th December, 1943, it has been laid down that all contractors of the Communications and Works Department would in future be divided in the proportion of 1: 1 of Muslims and non-Muslims and what is more astonishing is that if a sufficient number of Muslim contractors are not available, not more than 50 per cent. of the total allotment should be given to non-Muslims and every effort should be made to give maximum possible assistance to the training of Muslim contractors. It is not clear what will happen to the job where half the job will only be done and the other half will remain unfinished. I cannot understand or conceive how it will work in practice. If a road is to be constructed from one place to another, is it contemplated that half of it would be finished and the other half would remain unfinished until suitable Muslim contractors are available? Is that the idea? If that is the manner in which such things are going to be conducted, I am afraid the country would be faced with a terrible disaster for the Muslims as well as for the Hindus.

The third important point is with regard to legislation. We have before us in particular two pieces of legislation in regard to which certain communities felt that infringement of their rights and privileges was contemplated. It was agreed informally that Sir Nazimuddin would see that when such legislation would be introduced, he would get the major communities more or less satisfied and if not satisfied call a conference. But, Sir, the manner in which these pieces of legislation are being considered and pressed for leaves us little doubt that Sir Nazimuddin's Government is rather following the way of the previous Governments and trying to continue the policy of repression of one community in the interests of another.

In these three ways, Sir, I submit that the communal situation in the country is further getting more and more deteriorated. My esteemed friend Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal has also pointed out how the question of music before mosque has also not been solved and at least at one place immersion of deities has been held up. We had some expectation from the Muslim League enthusiasts. We thought that if we allowed such things to be handled by them, better treatment of Hindus would come out. But we are thoroughly disappointed. We now feel and we are now seeing what is in store in future Pakistan for the Hindus of Bengal.

(At this stage, the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion to raise a discussion about the reactionary attitude of the Government in filing an appeal against the concurrent decisions of the High Court and the Federal Court against the validity of certain sections of Ordinance II of 1942 otherwise known as the Special Courts Ordinance.

Sir, before I deal with the subject-matter of my motion I desire to make certain prefatory observations about the position of the Federal Court in this country. The Federal Court is functioning under the present constitution under which we are acting today. It was not in existence before. It was brought into existence by the Government of India Act of 1935. As you are aware, Sir, the Federal Court has three jurisdictions. It has an original jurisdiction, original and exclusive jurisdiction, in any dispute between the Federation and the Units of Federation where the dispute involves any question on which the existence or extent of a legal right depends. Next, Sir, it has an appellate jurisdiction, i.e., an appeal can lie to it against any judgment or decree of a High Court in matters involving an interpretation of the Constitution Act or an Order in Council. It has a third function to perform, viz., its advisory capacity, in which capacity it can express opinion on questions referred to it by the Governor-General. It is thus the highest judicial authority in matters constitutional in this land.

Now, Sir, when the proposal for the Federal Court was made in the white paper, the Joint Committee expressed themselves thus concerning its appellate jurisdiction. I am referring to paragraph 325 of the report of the Joint Committee. They observed:

> "We had at first thought that on a constitutional issue appeals should lie without leave. But we appreciate that in a country" (I would stress the fling at this country, Sir,) "where litigation is so much in favour this might result in an excessive number of unnecessary appeals. We therefore approve the proposal in the white paper though we think that the Federal Court ought to have a summary power of disposing of appeals or applications for leave to appeal, in any case where they appear to be frivolous or vexatious or brought only for the purpose of delay."

Now, Sir, the Committee thought that a brake was necessary even on appeals from the Federal Court also because this country was a litigious country in their opinion and therefore no appeal from a decision of the Federal Court should be allowed to the Privy Council unless the Federal Court gave the leave or unless leave was obtained from the Privy Council. Little did they think that the Government—that their Government in this country—would be the first to take advantage, Sir, of the provision for leave and would rush to appeal to the Privy Council even against a decision which simply approved of the decision of a High Court.

Now, Sir, I am referring to the subject-matter of my motion. Two questions of capital importance went for the decision of the highest judiciary in the land last year, one relating to the validity of Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules—the question that was taken on appeal from the Bombay High Court to the Federal Court,—and the other decided by the Calcutta High Court relating to the validity of sections 5, 10 and 16 of Ordinance II, known as Special Courts Ordinance. Now, Sir, so far as the first appeal was concerned which is known as Keshab Talpadey Case, there the Bombay High Court and the Federal Court differed and it is reported that the Bombay Government, not satisfied with the decision of the Federal Court, are probably taking an appeal to the Privy Council. But what about the Bengal case? In the Bengal case the Calcutta High Court has found that sections 5, 10 and 16, i.e., the sections creating the Special Court and conferring jurisdiction on them and laying down the procedure of trial or rather the farce of a trial in those courts—are invalid, if not, *ultra vires*, and the Federal Court approved of that very decision of the Calcutta High Court, a decision to which the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court was a party. Here is a decision, Sir, which is a concurrent decision: two highest courts of appeal in India, the High Court and the highest judicature established by the Constitution agreed on a point, namely, that sections 5, 10 and 16 of the Special Courts Ordinance are invalid. I am here giving a summary of the decision as embodied in the head note of the case. This is the substance of the decision of the Federal Court: "Sections 5, 10 and 16 of the Special Criminal Courts Ordinance (II of 1942) are invalid. Accordingly, a trial under the Ordinance by a Special court of an offence triable by the court and under the procedure prescribed by the Criminal Procedure Code is without jurisdiction." Remember, Sir, hundreds and thousands of persons have suffered at the hands of these illegal courts. The decision continues: "The subject-matter of the Ordinance is not beyond the Ordinance-making powers of the Governor-General. But the above provisions, affecting the Criminal Procedure Code and the jurisdiction of the High Court under the Code as well as the Letters Patent, are invalid inasmuch as the Ordinance does not by itself repeal sections 5, 28 and 29 of the Code which subject to section 1(2) thereof, must by virtue of section 292 of the Constitution Act, govern every criminal proceeding, both as regards the tribunal and the procedure, until altered or repealed or amended by a competent Legislature or other competent authority. Nor does the Ordinance, assuming an Ordinance can do so, by itself take away the jurisdiction of the High Court which, by virtue of section 223 of the Constitution Act must continue to be in force until affected by an Act of the appropriate Legislature. Nor does it by itself create a special jurisdiction or power within the meaning of section 1(2) of the Code such as is saved by that section."

After declaring that these sections were invalid, it proceeded to say that there was a delegation of legislative authority which could not be properly done. (At this stage the member reached the time-limit but was allowed five minutes more to finish his speech.) "It is only the order of the executive authority passed under sections 5, 10 or 16 of the Ordinance, in respect of each case or group or class of cases that in fact operates to repeal the provisions of the Code and divest the regular Courts of their

jurisdiction, to invest the Special Courts with jurisdiction to try any particular case or group or class of cases and to take away the powers of the High Court. Delegation of such power to the executive, to be exercised in their absolute and unrestricted discretion, without any limitations and without any legislative provision or direction laying down the policy or conditions of criteria by reference to which the power is to be exercised, is not delegation of execution of the law by filling in details but delegation of legislative authority and as such is invalid, particularly having regard to the relationship between the executive and the legislature in India and to the conception of the Ordinance-making power in the Constitution Act where it is connected with the personal judgment and discretion of the Governor-General."

Then they explained what was the difference, Sir, that obtained between England and India in this respect, and that is very instructive. They observed: "Before applying the analogy based on the English practice as to emergency legislation, certain differentiating circumstances must be borne in mind. In England, even emergency legislation is parliamentary legislation or Order in Council passed under the authority of parliamentary statute and it is always subject to parliamentary control, including in the last resort the right to insist on the annulment or modification of the Order in Council or even the repeal or modification of the statute itself. Under the Indian Constitution, the Legislature has no share in or control over the making of an Ordinance or the exercise of powers thereunder, nor has it any voice in asking for its repeal or modification. Again, anything like a serious excess in the use of special emergency powers will, under the English practice, be a matter which Parliament can take note of when the time comes for passing the usual Indemnity Act on the termination of the emergency. That is not the position here, as the indemnity can be provided by an Ordinance. As against all this, the only safeguard provided in the Indian Constitution is that the matter rests entirely upon the responsibility of the Governor-General. This only confirms the argument against delegation of such responsibility, at least without laying down in clear and definite terms the limits and conditions governing the exercise by executive officers of powers conferred upon them by the Ordinance."

We now see, Sir, that against this concurrent decision of the High Court and the Federal Court, the Government of Bengal is going to prefer an appeal to the Privy Council. The Ministry, Sir, being consulted in this matter, is a party to the decision that has been taken, to appeal to the Privy Council. The other day I put a short-notice question to this effect: "Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of Bengal have appealed to the Privy Council against the concurrent decisions of the High Court and the Federal Court against the validity of some sections of Ordinance II of 1942, otherwise called the Special Courts Ordinance? If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the present Ministry was consulted in this matter and the present Ministry considered it desirable to file the appeal?" The reply was specific—"yes" and "yes".

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Rai Chaudhuri, your time is up.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: May I not have one minute?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, one minute.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: We now witness, Sir, that here a Ministry is functioning which considers it desirable to act in the interest of the Ordinance-making power, which considers it desirable to go against the decision of the Federal Court to the effect that there should not be any delegation of legislative authority to executive officers. Here is a reactionary Ministry, Sir, which will file an appeal against the decision of the Federal Court which holds that the established law and Law Court of the country cannot be abrogated by such an Ordinance. Sir, such a reactionary Ministry cannot be tolerated by the people of the country and, Sir, the sooner they admit that they are not the representatives of the people, but are the subservient slaves of the bureaucracy it is better for them and better for the country also.

Mr. GIASUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the failure of Government not providing pay of Choukidars and Dafadars from Government revenue instead of Union Board funds.

সভাপতি মহোদয়! এই প্রস্তাব সম্বন্ধে অধিক বক্তৃতার প্রয়োজন আছে বলে মনে করি না। এই প্রস্তাব সম্পর্কে বলতে চাই চৌকিদার এবং দফাদারগণ গ্রাম্য পুলিশ হিসাবে গভর্ণমেণ্টের অনেক প্রয়োজনীয় কাজ করে থাকেন। গভর্ণমেণ্ট বিভিন্ন বিভাগের কর্ম্মচারীদের বেতন এবং ভাতা বাবদ কোটি কোটি টাকা খরচ করে থাকেন কিন্তু এই সমস্ত গরীব চৌকিদার এবং দফাদারদের জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট এক পয়সাও খরচ করেন না। অবশ্য তারা যে সামান্য বেতন পায় তা ইউনিয়নের জনসাধারণের উপর ট্যাক্স ধার্য্য করিয়া যে টাকা আদায় হয় তা হইতেই দেওয়া হয় এবং এতে প্রায় ইউনিয়নের আয়ের ১০ আনা খরচ হয়ে যায়। এর ফলে জনহিতকর কার্য্য যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে হয় না। যদি চৌকিদার-দফাদারদের বেতন গভর্ণমেণ্টের তহবিল হতে দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা হয় তাহলে ইউনিয়নের যে ট্যাক্স আদায় হয় তাহা দ্বারা গ্রাম, দেশের স্বাস্থ্য, রাস্তাঘাট, পানীয় জল সরবরাহ প্রভৃতি বিষয়ে অনেক উন্নতি হতে পারে। আজ গ্রামের অবস্থা সম্পর্কে সকলেই অবগত আছেন। অনেক যায়গায় দেখা যায় গ্রামবাসীদের পানীয় জলের ব্যবস্থা নাই। ম্যালেরিয়া, বসন্ত, কলেরা প্রভৃতি মহামারীর প্রতিরোধের ব্যবস্থা নাই। অনেক যায়গায় দেখা যায় জঙ্গলে সমাকীর্ণ এবং পুষ্করিণীগুলি কচুরিপানায় পূর্ণ। তাহাতে নানারকম রোগের সৃষ্টি হচ্ছে এবং টাকার অভাবে সেগুলির কোন ব্যবস্থা হচ্ছে না। এই সম্পর্কে যদি আমরা চিন্তা এবং বিবেচনা করি, তাহলে বুঝতে পারব এই জন্যই বাংলাদেশের বিভিন্ন জেলায়, প্রত্যেক সাবডিভিসনে এবং প্রত্যেক ইউনিয়নে লোকের স্বাস্থ্যহানী হয়েছে। এই জন্য প্রত্যেক যায়গা থেকে resolution করে গভর্ণমেণ্টকে জানান হয়েছে এবং অনুরোধ করা হয়েছে চৌকিদার-দফাদারদের বেতন গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে দেওয়া হউক এবং ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের ফাণ্ড জনহিতকর কার্য্যে ব্যয় করা হউক। এই গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষ থেকে যখন কয়েক বৎসর আগে Chowkidari Enquiry Bill Committee হয়েছিল তখন non-official member যাঁরা ছিলেন তাঁরা opinion দিয়েছিলেন চৌকিদার এবং দফাদারদের বেতন গভর্ণমেণ্টের বহন করা উচিত। যাঁরা official member ছিলেন তাঁরা opinion দিয়েছিলেন চৌকিদার এবং দফাদারদের বেতনের 60 per cent. provincial revenue হতে দেওয়া উচিত। তথাপি বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী বিষয়টি বিবেচনা করা সঙ্গত বোধ করে নাই। আশা করি বিভিন্ন দলের সকলেই এই সম্বন্ধে একমত হবেন।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir. I want to move motions Nos. 23, 26 and 27.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, you move these motions together and then make one speech.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the imposition and realisation of collective fines.

I also move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the increase in the expenses incurred and provided under the head "Ministers" from Rs. 3,97,000 in 1942-43 to Rs. 7,29,000 in the budget estimate for 1944-45.

I also move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the reckless policy of multiplying officers in different departments and of incurring additional expenditure and the urgency of setting up a machinery to effect proper scrutiny and retrenchment without impairing efficiency and service.

Sir, with regard to the first motion out of these three I have very little to state. The House knows that on a previous occasion an adjournment motion was moved and we pressed the then Government to make the position regarding the imposition of collective fines clear. It was revealed during those discussions that in certain cases collective fines were imposed on persons that could not, even under the wide provisions of the Ordinance, be construed to be responsible for the mischief for which the Ordinance was to be applied. In one case, in the case of Mr. Anil Kumar Chanda, a member of the Viswabharati, collective fine was imposed upon him although he did not belong to the thana within which the collective fines were actually put into operation, and although he pointed out that he was not a resident of the village or villages which were notified to be included in the notification for imposition of collective fines, yet, Sir, he against all his protests was subjected to the imposition and the enthusiastic police officers dragged away his furniture and sold them out to realise the collective fines. A case was duly instituted in the High Court against such an outrageous action——

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: What is the use of talking of a thing that happened in the past.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You have not refunded the money.

And, Sir, we were surprised to find that another amending Ordinance was issued with retrospective effect exonerating the police officers from anything done in order that the Court might not interfere in the interests of justice. Thereafter, Sir, attention was invited to collective fines imposed at Beldanga, at Jiaganj and at Muragacha where in one case a fine was imposed on a person who was dead. At Jiaganj fines were patently imposed on persons out of sheer grudge of the local police sub-inspector and there were persons involved who had been in some way or other complaining

against the action of that police officer because of highhandedness in another connection. Humble people like ordinary tailors or milkmen who had never conceived of any act of sabotage and lived outside the area covered were subjected to the imposition of collective fines. Petitions were submitted but they were not heeded. Not only that, the method and the manner of collection was something outrageous, because there was no notification for collecting the fine from all. Only 16 selected persons were marked and named for collection of fines. At Beldanga, as I have pointed out, there was no attempt to rope in or to issue a notification for imposition of fines for all people of the locality but only a few selected persons were named. These were illegal and *ultra vires* and the previous Ministry having been cornered did assure an enquiry into all these allegations and said that they would try to set things right. It is not merely the old Ministry that did it. While the new Ministry was also in the offing, assurances were held out by the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin himself and one of the terms in which he drafted those assurances was this: "(5) Facts in connection with Dacca and Midnapore incidents will be closely examined and all necessary steps will be taken in the light of such examination. (6) The question of collective fines will be reviewed by the Ministry". We thought that after that assurance some attempt would be made to set things right, but unfortunately a few days ago we received a reply which was most surprising. The reply was that this Ministry was not responsible for what the previous Ministry had done and they were not prepared to go through the question at all. There are still cases pending and I presume that so far as those pending cases are concerned, it is entirely within the competence of the present Ministry either to suspend realisation or to enforce the same.

At Balurghat in Dinajpur there were several cases of collective fines imposed on land-holders who had never been near the place for years, and one land-holder was fined a heavy sum of Rs. 10,000 at first which was reduced to Rs. 5,000 subsequently. We were informed by the nominee of the Hon'ble Minister here who in the absence of the Minister concerned takes up the duties of the Minister in the Assembly that the matter was still under investigation. But, Sir, I met this gentleman who was the victim in this case—his representative first called upon me and then I met him—and I was informed that so far as his case was concerned although an assurance was given in the House by the Minister that the matter was still being enquired into Government gave him a definite reply saying that no further action would be taken. The fine has not yet been paid. It is the case of Maharaj Bahadur Singh. He has further made representation on the matter.

Sir, I will not detain the House on this question further. But I do hope that the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin will try to keep at least his own tradition of keeping his promises.

The other two questions that I have sought to raise are comparatively simple. Motion No. 26 relates to increased expenditure on account of the Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries. Previous speakers have dwelt upon this question in the past and I have carefully examined the urgency of such expenses. I feel, Sir, that when the country as a whole is passing through an unprecedented crisis it is simply atrocious that we should be

providing more and more money for maintaining a few persons in office and that they would try to be an incubus on this province. If the work of this province which was formerly being administered by 4 to 7 Executive Councillors and Ministers now require 17 Parliamentary Secretaries and 13 Ministers then, Sir, it does not speak of the efficiency of this generation very high. And I believe, Sir, that all this is being done merely to keep themselves in power. This is highly objectionable. This is merely to see that a larger number of persons can be maintained to support their Ministry, in connection with votes in the Legislature. I suppose that Government and the public outside will take due note of how some of the voters are kept up, I submit, purchased or rather bribed to remain with the Government side for all times to come.

The next motion standing in my name is the most important of these three motions which I have moved. It relates to reckless multiplication of officers in different departments and of incurring additional expenditure. A similar motion has been passed by the Central Legislature. It is time, Sir, that we do apply ourselves properly to find out whether all the numerous offices that have recently been created in the name of war emergency and the urgent conditions created through war and famine are really justified. I know, Sir, and I did give during the general discussion of the budget an account how there are a large number of offices which had been created in the past, some of which are still functioning and which have not been, in any way, helpful to the province, and yet we have been made to pay money. Our energetic Finance Minister who is talking of further burdens on this province should take note that before he makes the people suffer more and more it is his duty to see that not a single rupee is spent without justification being thoroughly made out.

With these few words, so far as this motion is concerned, I demand an enquiry committee, and I hope that Government at least will be in a position to make a proper enquiry into the wastefulness of expenses incurred during recent years.

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion to raise a discussion about incompetency, corruption and nepotism prevailing.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, ইংরেজ রাজত্বের প্রথম অবধি আমাদের শাসনের সমস্ত বিভাগে দুর্নীতি এবং অনাচার বাসা বেঁধে আছে। যেখানে যাওয়া যায় ঠিক court-feeএর stampএর মতন ঘুস ও উপরিটা সুশৃঙ্খল ও সুনিয়ন্ত্রিতভাবে না দিলে কোন কাজই হাসিল হবার যো নাই। এটা আজকার কথা নয়, ইংরেজ রাজত্বের প্রথম থেকেই চলে আসছে; এবং ইংরেজ রাজত্ব যতদিন চলবে ততদিন যে এটাও চলবে তাতে সন্দেহ নাই। কিন্তু ঘুসের ব্যাপার যা উপস্থিত হয়েছে যুদ্ধের দরুণ তা মূল্য-নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও food supply policyর মধ্য দিয়ে আরো হাজার গুণ মর্ম্মান্তক হয়ে দেখা দিয়েছে। গভর্ণমেণ্ট জনসাধারণের যত কিছু দুঃখ-বিপদের হেতুটা চাপাতে চায় hoarders and profiteersদের ঘাড়ে। আমরা জানি কলকাতার রাস্তায় যখন কোন গাটকাটাকে ধরে ফেলবার সম্ভাবনা হয় তখন দেখা যায় যে তার সঙ্গে আরো যে সব চোর থাকে তাদের দিকে অঙ্গুলি নির্দ্দেশ কোরে চীৎকার কোরে বলে উঠে "ঐ চোর, ঐ চোর," ইত্যবসরে আসল চোর সরে পড়ে। গভর্ণমেণ্টও সেই রকম hoarders and profiteersদের

ঘাড়ে দোষ চাপিয়ে স্বকৃত দুষ্কৃতি থেকে রেহাই পেতে চায়। এ বিষয়ে আমি কয়েকটা দৃষ্টান্ত দিতেছি—বাণরিপাড়ার ধানের হাটে একদিন দারগা বাবু গেলেন; তারপর দেখা গেল ৪ খানা ধানের নৌকা থানায় এসে উপস্থিত হ'ল। সেখানে কয়েক মণ ধান controlled rateএ বিক্রয় হলো। তারপর পরের দিন সকালে দেখা গেল তিনখানা নৌকা নদীপথে উধাও হয়ে গেছে। বাকী একখানা নৌকায় ধান কিনতে উঠ্‌লে সেখানা লঙ্গর তুলে নদীর মধ্যে যাত্রা করল। ক্রেতাগণ বাধ্য হয়ে নদীতে লাফায়ে পড়ে তীরে উঠ্‌ল। পাড়ের সকলে ঐ ধানের নৌকা চলে যাচ্ছে বলে চিৎকার করতে লাগ্‌লো। দারগা বাবু এসে নৌকা থামাতেও বল্লেন, কিন্তু কেউ নৌকা থামালো না। তখন দারগা বাবু থানায় ফিরে আস্‌তে তার নিকট লিখিত এজাহার দেওয়া হ'ল। সে নৌকার নম্বর, মালিকের নাম, ধাম প্রভতি দিয়ে ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের নিকট ৮৩ শব্দবিশিষ্ট এক তারও পাঠান হয়েছে। শ্রীযুক্ত রাজেন্দ্র গুহ ঠাকুরতা এ সব কোরেছেন, কিন্তু আজ পর্য্যন্ত কোন উত্তর পাওয়া যায় নাই। মৃধা কুণ্ডু কোম্পানির কেরোসিন agencyর মালিক মৃধাকে hoardingএর অপরাধে জরিমানা করা হয়। তারপর S. D. O. সাহেবের কোন তহবিলে তিনি ৫ শত টাকা প্রদান করার ফলে—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: দু-চারটা দেশের দুঃখের কথা যদি না বলতে পারি তাহলে এখানে এসে লাভ কি? যাক বন্দোবস্তের ফলে, তিনি প্রথমে ছিলেন wholesale dealer সঙ্গে সঙ্গে retail dealerও হলেন। আর অম্নি বাজারে crude oil মিশিয়ে কেরোসিন বিক্রয় আরম্ভ করলো। কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে নমুনা পাঠান হলো; বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের পরীক্ষক অভিমত দিলেন—এটা crude oil. ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের কাছে অভিযোগ পাঠান হলো, S. D. O.কেও পাঠানো হলো, আর পাঠানো হলো বার্ম্মা শেল কোম্পানির কাছে কার কার কাছে বিক্রয় করা হয়েছে তাদের ration কার্ডের নম্বরসহ এবং রাসায়নিক পরীক্ষকের মন্তব্য সহ। ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট বা S. D. O. কোন step নেন নি। কিন্তু বার্ম্মা শেল কোম্পানি তার agency নাকচ করে দিয়েছেন। ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট ধান বিক্রয় সম্বন্ধে জিজ্ঞাসা করা হলে বল্লেন, ধান বিক্রয় সম্বন্ধে আমরা কাউকে বাধ্য করতে পারি না, কিন্তু যখন বলা হলো—গভর্ণমেণ্ট তো requisition ক'রে তার সমস্ত ধান seize করতে পারেন, তার তিনি কোন উত্তর দিলেন না। তারপরে crude oil সম্বন্ধে যখন জিজ্ঞাসা করা হলো তখন তিনি বল্লেন যে বার্ম্মা শেল কোম্পানি ত তার agency নাকচই করেছে।

ঠিক এম্নিভাবে হুলারহাটে যারা কেরোসিন, চিনি, আটা, বিক্রয় নিয়ে black marketing করবার জন্য জরিমানা দিয়াছে, তারাই agent নির্ব্বাচিত হয়ে আজ কেরোসিন, চিনি ও আটা বিক্রয় করছে। কাজেই আজ একথা লোকে নিশ্চয়ই বিশ্বাস করতে পারে ঐ সমস্ত dealersদের সঙ্গে গভর্ণমেণ্ট officersদের যোগ আছে—চোরের সঙ্গে যেমন যোগ থাকে গাঠ কাঁটার। সুতরাং জনসাধারণ যখন বলে এ গভর্ণমেণ্ট চোরে ভর্ত্তি, তাদের দোষ দেওয়া যায় কি? এখন গভর্ণমেণ্টের খাসমহলে officersদের অত্যাচারের কথা শুনুন। মঠবাড়িয়া বন্দরের একজন বিশিষ্ট নাগরিক বাবু শরৎ চন্দ্র গুই মহাশয়ের কাছে খাসমহল Circle Officer দাবি করে যে ৬/০ মণ চাল দিতে হবে controlled rateএ। তিনি বল্লেন, "আমার পরিবারের খোরাকীর এই চাল। আমি কি করে দিব"। এই কথা বলায় তাঁকে গালাগালি ও প্রহার ক'রে দড়ি দিয়ে বেঁধে রাখা হ'ল। বন্দরের বহু লোক উপস্থিত হ'লে তাকে ছেড়ে দেওয়া হয়। তখন তিনি থানায় সাব্-ইন্সপেক্টরের কাছে এজাহার দিতে গেলেন। সাব্-ইন্সপেক্টর এজাহার না নেওয়ায় Inspectorএর কাছে এজাহার দিলেন। ইন্সপেক্টর তখন থানাতেই ছিলেন, সার্কেল অফিসার

এই কথা শুনে পিস্তল হস্তে থানায় ঢুকিলেন এবং [illegible]কে শাসিয়ে বল্লেন যদি তুমি এজাহার প্রত্যাহার না কর তাহলে তোমাকে Defence of India Rulesএ গ্রেপ্তার করব। ভয়ে পড়ে শরৎ বাবু এজাহার প্রত্যাহার করলেন। বন্দরের হিন্দু-মুসলমান ত্রিশ জন নেতা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট সাহেবের কাছে এই ব্যাপার ও অন্যান্য অত্যাচারের বৃত্তান্তসহ khas mahal Circle Officerএর বিরুদ্ধে দরখাস্ত করেছেন ২৫শে অক্টোবর, কিন্তু আজ পর্য্যন্ত কোন প্রতিকার হয় নি। তারপরে ভোলায় Government test reliefএর জন্য দু'লক্ষ টাকা মঞ্জুর করেন, কিন্তু সেটা কেমন রিলিফ হয়েছে তা মার্টিন সাহেবই বলতে পারেন। তিনি যখন দেখলেন যেখানে লোক আছে ৫০ জন কিন্তু কাজ করছে মাত্র ২০ জন তখন তিনি বল্লেন যে it is a scandalous affair এবং সেখানকার test relief বন্ধ কোরে দিলেন। কিন্তু যে সমস্ত কর্ম্মচারীদের দোষে ঐসব scandalous affairs সংঘটিত হলো তাদের একজনেরও কোন শাস্তি হলো না। মাঝখান থেকে নিরন্ন জনসাধারণের মুখের গ্রাস কেড়ে নেওয়া হলো।

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: এই আমি শেষ করছি। আমি একদিন জিজ্ঞাসা করেছিলাম, ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট Palmer সাহেবকে—লোককে চার ছটাকের জায়গায় দু'ছটাক চাল দেওয়া হয় কেন সরকারী অন্নসত্রে? তিনি বল্লেন S. D. O. জানেন। আমি এ বিষয়ে কোন খোঁজ রাখি না। আমি বল্লাম আপনার কথামতই এই ব্যবস্থা হইয়াছে। কথাটা এতই নিদারুণ তাচ্ছিল্যের সঙ্গে অস্বীকার করা হ'ল তাতে আমার একটু মনে জেগেছিল is not Mr. Palmer a man? কিন্তু তখন ভুলে গিয়েছিলাম যে he is an Englishman!

Mr. P. BANARJI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion to raise a discussion about the coming general election of the district board in the district of Khulna and the activities of the officers of the subdivision.

Sir, I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100.

My object in moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the election and nomination of members of certain union boards in the Satkhira subdivision in the district of Khulna.

My friend, Dr. Sanyal, has already told you how public administration under the present Ministry has deteriorated in the country. I shall give you one instance about the District Board election and from that you will know how the administration has deteriorated. We can never expect before Pakisthan really comes into force that administration in the country will deteriorate in the way in which it has done. I shall just narrate an instance which happened at Khulna where the District Magistrate, the Subdivisional Officers, the Superintendent of Police and other officers are all Muslims. They are imbued with the idea that they are there only for canvassing in favour of candidates of the Muslim League.

On the 13th of this month the scrutiny took place and, on this scrutiny, you will be surprised to hear that almost all the names belonging to the Opposition have been rejected. I am speaking now of the nomination papers of the Satkhira subdivision particularly. Sir, there were 82 nomination papers in all of which 23 nomination papers were submitted by persons

who were not connected with the Muslim League. But immediately a few days before the scrutiny of the nomination papers, the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy and his Parliamentary Secretary went there and naturally when the Minister and his Parliamentary Secretary made their appearance, all the officers went to them and in public meetings they said that there was no place for those who were not in the Muslim League. Sir, I can understand the supporters of the Muslim League speaking in that strain but what I fail to understand is the fact that out of the 23 nomination papers, 20 nomination papers including those of our Deputy Speaker, Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy, Khan Sahib Abdur Rauf, Mr. Thakur Das Bose and Mr. Jonab Ali were rejected without giving any reasons therefor. Sir, Government has issued a circular that on flimsy grounds no nomination paper should be rejected and there has been a change in the rules. The rules provide that even at the time of submission of nomination papers there should be an opportunity to amend or correct the nomination papers. Therefore it stands to reason that there is no scope for the rejection of nomination papers on flimsy grounds but in this particular case without giving any reason whatsoever the nomination papers of those who were not in the Muslim League were rejected.

I will also give another instance of the Sadar subdivision where one nomination paper was rejected on the ground that the person concerned had his name shown at different places under different constituencies in the voter's lists. Sir, it is quite possible that the name of a person may appear as a voter in several places under different constituencies but unless he has voted on the same occasion from different constituencies, how can his nomination paper be rejected? On this ground the name of Mr. Bose was rejected. At the same time, Sir, the name of Rai Manmatha Nath Ghose Bahadur was not rejected on the same ground simply because he was a favourite of the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy. When Mr. Suhrawardy went to Khulna he addressed several public meetings and came back. We do not know what influence he exercised over the officials. We know that he is only a public servant, but from what happened in Khulna immediately after he left the place I am tempted to say that he is more than the Emperor of India! Sir, I can understand the attitude of persons who are members of the Muslim League so long as they are not in office, but as soon as they enter into public service they have no business whatsoever to meddle in propaganda in connection with local board elections. In the interests of the Muslim League they are going about in the countryside meddling in election matters while they are professing that they are going there to deal with the distribution of sugar and kerosene oil. Sir, it has been said that cloths are being supplied in Khulna and other districts but if the Hon'ble Minister would make an enquiry he will find that cloths are distributed to those voters only who are expected to vote for the Muslim League. This is a most ridiculous state of affairs, Sir. Then, Sir, so far as relief measures are concerned, it is a well-known fact that relief is given from public funds, not to the public in general but to only one section of the public who are in sympathy with the group now in power. I can prove it to the satisfaction of Government that this is so if only an enquiry is instituted and I can also prove it to its satisfaction that the officers of Government have been so influenced by that party that they are acting not in the interests of the

public in general but in the interests of Muslim League people. Sir, a circular should be issued immediately that no officer of Government should meddle in election matters and an order of Government should be circulated that money should not be wasted on relief measures in the way in which it has so long been done.

Now, Sir, with regard to union board nominations it was stated on the floor of the House that District Magistrates should consult local M.L.As. on the matter. I know, Sir, in several constituencies local M.L.As. have been consulted, but I am surprised to hear that in almost all cases the nominations proposed by M.L.As. not belonging to the camp of the Muslim League have been rejected but nominations proposed by the representatives of the Muslim League have been accepted. I urge upon the Government that this policy should be revised and that a circular order should be issued to all District Magistrates that in the matter of nomination all nominations proposed by M.L.As. should be impartially scrutinised.

With these words, Sir, I move my motions.

Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, I move the motion to raise a discussion about the utter neglect of Government in improving the pay, prospect and condition of service of the village chaukidar.

Just now, Sir, my friend, Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed, has placed before the House his motion that Government should pay for the village chaukidars. But my proposal is quite of a different nature. That proposal will no doubt improve the financial condition of the union board but certainly that will not improve the hapless lot of the chaukidar. While in these difficult days we are all concerned with the conditions of service and with the pay, prospects and emoluments of public services, we are all oblivious about the poor village chaukidar.

Now, Sir, what is the service that this village chaukidar renders to Government and to the public? If public service has got any meaning in itself, this village chaukidar is in the strictest sense a public servant serving from the highest in the land to the lowest. Sir, there is no work done by Government in which the help of the village chaukidar is not required. He is an important limb of the public service of Bengal but about his conditions of service nobody in the land takes any care. Sir, in these days of high inflation he gets a pay of only Rs. 8, 9 or 10 a month, and he has got to serve so many masters that he gets no opportunity to follow any other trade or profession or even his own profession of agriculture. But he has got to maintain himself and his family and serve the public and the Government at the same time. Unless and until his condition of service is improved and his pay increased we cannot expect anything good or better to be rendered by the village chaukidar. When we ask the Government about the "Grow More Food" campaign, about death statistics, about famine statistics, the reply from the Government is that all the statistics are primarily supplied by the village choukidars who are illiterate and who have not got that capacity to furnish accurate statistics. We always lay the blame on the village choukidar but never try to improve the condition of the village choukidar, to give him adequate pay, to recruit

proper men for the service, to give him any training for the services which are requisitioned from them. The circumstances as they prevail in the case of the services of the village choukidar certainly affect our administration in the greater sphere too.

The village chaukidar has to labour from morning till evening and from evening till daybreak. Never a day passes, never a night passes on which some sort of criminal acts are not committed in the village. At once the village chaukidar's services are requisitioned. He has to come to the place of occurrence, collect facts as much as possible, then run to the thana officer which may be 10 or 12 miles off. Then if the crime be a serious one he has to accompany the Daroga Babu to the place of occurrence and have to work all day till the Daroga Babu remains there, but nobody takes any notice whether the village chaukidar has taken any food or whether he has any other duty which has been left uncared for and which he has left in a hurry. Then, it is not only the Daroga Babu but all other officers—whether the Circle Officer or the Subdivisional Officer or the District Magistrate—who tour in a village, it is the village chaukidar whose assistance is first required and without whose assistance they cannot travel practically and execute their primary duty in the village. (Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: What about standing guard on railway lines?) I have already said he has to serve from the lowest to the highest in the land, but his condition of service remains the same as it was before and nobody takes any care about him. Then there is no arrangement for his proper training or for his comfort. I submit that in order that we may improve the village administration, the man responsible primarily should be adequately paid, properly trained and his condition of service sufficiently improved.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, as I listened to the speech of the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party, my memory was carried to the days of Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta and Mr. C. R. Das, to the years 1922-29 when from the Congress benches we listened to the stereotyped speeches about reduction of expenditure, separation of the judiciary and the executive and various other complaints of a similar nature. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All those reforms completed? Have you achieved all that?) Much water has flown down the Ganges since then and conditions are so different at the present time that to talk of retrenchment of expenditure and expenditure on nation-building departments seems to be divorced from all realities.

Sir, at the present time, specially during the year under review, the Government of Bengal has been spending such vast sums of money for the amelioration of the condition of the people, for giving relief to the people that to talk of curtailment of expenditure at the present time seems to be extremely out of place. The other day the Education Minister made a commitment which will alone amount to something like Rs. 30 to 40 lakhs for relief to the teachers of secondary schools, primary schools, madrassahs and tols. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is still a promise.) When this Government makes a promise, it means it is going to be given effect to. It is not like the previous Government,

Sir, in this budget we have provided Rs. 5 lakhs for the Scheduled Castes and we have given an undertaking that it is going to be a recurring grant. Large sums of money are being spent in providing relief to the areas where there have been epidemics (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In providing jobs also.) and Rs. 30 to 40 lakhs or even more, I think, is going to be spent for one commitment of Government, viz., converting subdivisional and district hospitals into Government hospitals and taking entire charge of them. That was one of the demands of the people. Wherever you went into the rural areas, into the mofussil, the one demand was "Improve the condition of our hospitals". We have undertaken that and we hope we shall very soon improve the hospitals in the mofussil areas.

Sir, talking about the separation of the judiciary and the executive, from my own experience I feel that this is one of the reforms that should be undertaken by Government, but I am sure the House will agree with me that it is not a reform that can be undertaken at the present time, specially when the war is on. However, we have started to a certain extent on this scheme of separation of the judiciary and the executive (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: As is evident from the Pollard case). The appointment of lawyer-magistrates or temporary magistrates—the designation which we have given them—will to a certain extent fulfil that purpose because these magistrates will be called upon entirely to decide cases and unless we are very hard pressed and if we find them qualified, other duties will not be entrusted to them.. We have decided dealing with cases with the sole aid of these temporary Magistrates (Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Why temporary then?) Because the scheme at present is temporary and if it succeeds and if it is found that it works well, there is every prospect that it may be made permanent, but at the present moment it has been done not with a view to separate judiciary from the executive but to meet the emergency that has been caused by the dearth of officers and the great strain that has been put on the officers of Government at the present time.

Sir, in his speech Mr. Datta, the Deputy Leader of the Party, and, I believe, Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed, both these gentlemen dealt with the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries. The trouble with these gentlemen is and I find generally that the fault of the members of the Opposition is that they forget what they have said in the past or what their party members have done in the past. (Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Our party ?) Oh yes. I may remind the Deputy Leader that when the Congress Ministries formed their Government in the various provinces, in every one of them they appointed Parliamentary Secretaries. (Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: What was their salary ?) Their salaries were commensurate with the salaries of the Ministers. I do not want to dwell on that point at any length. But on the question of principle of appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries, the Congress Assembly party ought to be the last one to criticise this Government as the party to which they belong has everything to do with the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries and every one of those Ministries had a large number of Parlimentary Secretaries. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Financial implication is objected to and not the principle.)

Now, Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed has also dealt with this question at length. I am reading a speech of the then Chief Whip of his party, namely,

Mr. Sanyal, when Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed belonged to the Opposition Group, I believe, and also when his party was supporting the then Government. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Quoting scriptures? (Laughter.) "Sir, we want to have our Parliamentary Secretaries, because we want to extend the function of the Cabinet. We want to keep our Ministers in daily touch with all parties both within and outside the House. Sir, it is purely a question of making our Coalition Party democratic, so that Government may function on proper lines" and so on and so on. The question was not as to whether it was right or wrong but the question was whether it was necessary to have Parliamentary Secretaries in order to make Government more democratic. I may remind the members of the Opposition that the number of Parliamentary Secretaries appointed was 17—the number against which the honourable members opposite have so vehemently protested. (Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: What about 117 Parliamentary Secretaries !). It will be found that in all democratic system of Government appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries and their functions and duties are well-defined. Their services are necessary. It is not possible for the Ministers to conduct their ordinary duties without the assistance of Parliamentary Secretaries. I may remind the old members of the House, I mean those who belonged to the old Bengal Legislative Council, that even during the days of the Executive Councillors and the then Ministers, they used to have their Secretaries, Joint Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries to assist them in the House in connection with questions and answers and debates. When it was decided to do away with official representation in the House, the only way this gap could be filled up was by means of the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries. It is a recognised thing. There is no Government in any part of the world where democratic system obtains and where you have no Parliamentary Secretaries, and yet the honourable members think that they have got a good point because we have appointed 17 Parliamentary Secretaries. Actually we have appointed one Parliamentary Secretary for each Minister and four to act, as Whips. There is no excess number of Parliamentary Secretaries. In the Punjab according to Mr. Sanyal they have got 6 Ministers and 18 Parliamentary Secretaries. So I think the House will now be convinced that (Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: One Pakistan following another !) at least this attack has been misfired. (Laughter from the Coalition benches.)

Mr. Atul Chandra Sen has raised two points. One of them is about the lack of answers from Government to questions that have been put. Here again I am ready to join issue with the Opposition. It may be that some questions have not been answered, but the number of questions that we have replied to bears a much larger percentage than any previous Government have done (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Question.) Some questions in the Home Department have unfortunately been held up, because I wanted to issue a statement and then answer those questions with reference to that statement. Owing to my being very busy, I have no time to look up the statement which is ready and I hope within the next week that statement will be issued to the press and published and after that most of the questions that are pending in the Home Department will be ready for replies and will be sent to the Assembly (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What about Civil Supplies Department ?) Often a very large number of questions are

sent to the Home Department while actually those questions are the concern of the other Departments and naturally that causes delay. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is the channel to send out questions to others.) Sir, as far as possible I think we are answering questions and apart from the Home Department I do not think there are many questions pending with the other departments (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What about Civil Supplies Department ?).

With reference to the question about some deaths in the Dacca Jail I want to say, as far as my information goes, there is no death of security prisoners beyond the one mentioned, viz., one person who died of small-pox. Had there been any other deaths, people would have got information. In any case they would require us to have a special enquiry made and as soon as I hear from Dacca I will be in a position to give information to the House.

Now I shall come to the point raised by Mr. Giasuddin on the question of abolition of nominations. This is one of those things which we on our side also want as much as the members of the Opposition side, namely, to do away with nomination. If the honourable members think that it is any advantage to Government I would like to disabuse their minds.

It gives us more trouble, gives us more work and leads to more dissatisfaction than anything else and we are just as anxious as they are to do away with nomination. (Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Then, do it!) But the difficulty is this. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You have to distribute patronage.) When Dr. Sanyal will come here, he will know. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have seen that) I am afraid most of his information is as usual wrong. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What about Jiaganj Municipality?) There was no question of patronage. It was a question of choice between two persons as to who should be the Chairman. Both had equal claims and it was a question of making choice. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You override the decision of local officials!)

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: On a point of order, Sir. We listened to gentlemen opposite most patiently. If they go on interrupting like this, won't you stop them? I want you to use your power against them.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope there will be no more interruption.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: When our friends opposite ask Government to do away with nomination, they don't realise the various problems that will have to be solved before nominations are done away with. Adequate representation of minorities, particularly of the Scheduled Castes, is one of the important questions that must be taken into consideration before nominations are done away with. There are two or three points in this connection. You can do without nomination and give adequate representation to minorities if everybody is agreed to have separate electorates. (Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Why?) (Cries of "Question, question" from the Opposition benches.) I knew that that would be the cry raised from there. (Interruption.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I request honourable members not to interrupt the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, the most adequate way so far recognised of giving representation to minorities is by means of separate electorates. (Cries of "Question, question" from the Opposition benches.) If you are not to have that, then there is the question of reservation. The majority of the people will not prefer the latter because it gives doubtful representation, extremely doubtful representation, to minorities and my honourable friends know that, and yet say "yes".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Because that is an absolute truth. Why not have joint electorates? (Interruption.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal you have interrupted so many times in the course of one speech. I hope there will be no more interruptions.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That may be so as far as the Muslims and Hindus are concerned. What about the Scheduled Castes? If they do not get adequate representation, the Muslims of West Bengal may be ready to sacrifice themselves for the Muslims of East Bengal. But what are you going to do to protect the Scheduled Castes? (Interruption.) I should like to hear the views of the members of the Scheduled Castes sitting on the benches over there, what they think about it and whether they agree to it. It is very easy to say—I am not canvassing: I am only pointing out the difficulties which we have to face—it is very easy to suggest that we can do away with nomination, but before it is done, we have to meet these difficulties. It must be remembered when member after member gets up to speak, that this Government has only been in office for the last ten months. Don't mix us up with those who were here before. It makes a great deal of difference. There might have been Ministers who sat on this question for two years or more. But it was not the present Minister nor the present Ministry.

I may point out in this connection that the Local Self-Government Department and the Public Health Department have had a most trying time during the last six months and in this connection I would also combine my reply to the cutmotion of Sir Henry Birkmyre and his criticism about the delay in bringing forward the Howrah Improvement Trust Bill. I would like the honourable members to realise when we came to office that in the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department there was only one Secretary with an Assistant Secretary and most of his office was at Rajshahi. It was extremely difficult to carry on with the heavy work in the Department. There was a great deal of delay in getting files from Rajshahi and dealing with them especially in the absence of the Secretary. The first thing we took up was to insist on getting more secretarial assistance. After we had got that, we were immediately faced with the difficulties of the Calcutta Corporation and secondly, with the serious epidemic all over Bengal and naturally precedence had to be given to fighting the epidemic in Bengal. Honourable members know that by the grace of God we have been able to achieve a certain amount of success in that respect. If you now go to any part of the mufassal, you will not hear of any complaint about the distribution of quinine. One great thing has been achievd. (Cries of "Question, question" from the Opposition

benches.) Honourable members may question, but I know it is a fact. I have been to a number of districts recently and I have met representatives of all parties and all sections and communities. (Interruption.)

Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: In Jangipur thana there is no quinine.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: It may be that there are one or two spots in the province where quinine has not reached, but the arrangements that have been made are admittedly satisfactory and one does not hear of any complaint about it.

(Cries of "Question, question" from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Many people are dying for want of quinine.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Such wild statements can only be made by Mr. Sanyal and nobody else. (Interruption.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I am talking about the present. I am not talking about the time when there was a scarcity. As my friends are finding it very inconvenient, I will leave that question. Coming to the Howrah Improvement Bill, I have pointed out the difficulties we have had. The Public Health Department has been very heavily worked, and particularly the Secretaries, the three of them, at one time were all ill. But we are going to take this up. We hope *Insha-Allah* we shall be able to publish the Bill by the middle of May.

Now, Sir, Mr. Radhanath Das raised the question of grievances of the Scheduled Caste community. Sir, I will not take much time of the House over this point, but I can say this much that what we have done for the Scheduled Caste community, no other Ministry, no other Government in any part of India has ever done for them. Mr. Edbar sits over there, but he forgets what representation the Scheduled Castes have in the present Ministry of Bengal. I claim and maintain that the way in which we are giving advantage to the Scheduled Caste people in the matter of appointments in accordance with the Communal Ratio Rules can really leave nothing to be said. I am prepared to admit that the Scheduled Castes are not getting the full benefit of the Communal Ratio Rules, but the difficulties are insuperable. Nevertheless we are following the Communal Ratio Rules very strictly. But when the Public Service Commission do not send names, we cannot appoint people who are not recommended.

Then, Sir, this Government has been accused of favouritism and nepotism and of not following the Communal Ratio Rules. I maintain, the facts are just the reverse. Let us take the case of temporary magistrates or lawyer magistrates. There was a possibility of pressure being put from all sections and of recommendations from both Hindus and Muslims to get particular candidates appointed. As a rule it is the policy of this Government that they keep to themselves the right to choose from amongst names that have been put up by the Public Service Commission on the principle that the Public Service Commission is only a recommending body and not an appointing authority. They are to recommend certain names from which appointments are made. We do not accept the proposition that the order of

merit, in the case of lawyer magistrates, should be accepted by Government. In the case of lawyer magistrates I told my colleagues in the Cabinet and the members of our party that I was not going to deviate from the recommendation of the Public Service Commission and that the order of priority would be strictly followed.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You will procure recommendations from the Public Service Commission! (Loud cries of protest from the Coalition benches.) In how many cases do you want such examples?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: It is a compliment, but Dr. Sanyal manufactures a statement which has got no truth behind it. There is not a single case which has been referred to the Public Service Commission.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All right, I will produce evidence as to on how many occasions you have flouted the recommendations of the Public Service Commission.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, so far as the appointments of lawyer magistrates are concerned, we have not been able up till now to strictly follow the Communal Ratio Rules and the order of priority sent by the Public Service Commission. Here also there has been some misunderstanding.....(Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is a new reference.). .....because certain names have been published and not the full quota of persons that are going to be appointed, the reason being that we are in a hurry due to the fact that there is complete shortage of officers and every Commissioner, Collector and Subdivisional Officer are crying for assistance. A number of posts are vacant. Cases are accumulating and works cannot be carried on, and the one way in which we can give relief in this matter is by the appointment of these lawyer magistrates. We are trying to expedite these appointments and therefore as the cases are ready for appointment we publish their names. And in this instance we are making these appointments strictly on the basis of the two advertisements, one of which prescribed the age-limit between 30 and 45 and the other between 40 and 45.

Sir, as far as the question of favouritism is concerned, we have taken scrupulous care not to be pressed by individuals. I do not mind confessing that we do receive recommendations from many quarters and we also feel that Muslims and Scheduled Castes should get their fair share in the services according to the policy laid down by the Government. We also want to see that these appointments are made according to Government policy. We are not interested in individuals. We do claim the right to protect the interest of all communities and see that justice is done irrespective of caste and creed, and I do not think that any case can be cited in which there has been any deliberate injustice done to any community whatsoever.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: We are convinced!

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: It is not a question of being convinced: it is a question of fact. I do not mind whether I have been able to convince anybody or not. Nobody can make a horse drink when it is unwilling to drink.

Now, Sir, I come to the question that has been raised by Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal, and in that connection I will also meet the points that have been raised by Dr. Sanyal about communal harmony. Since we have been here by the Grace of God.....(Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Not by the Grace of God but by the grace of Sir John Herbert.).....we have been able to maintain communal harmony. I do not like to boast, but I may say this much that at the present time the communal feeling in Bengal is far better than it has ever been before, and there is mutual co-operation. Mr. Sanyal referred to a particular incident about the Nimtita immersion case. In this connection I would like to tell the House the present policy of the Government about music before mosque. We have decided to observe the policy laid down in 1926. This has now been accepted by the people and practically throughout the province processions are being taken out on the basis of that policy... . ...(Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Question !) .....and we have this advantage that during the regime of Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee when he was in office for 16 months, it had received his approval also.

Now, any devitation from that policy without an agreement by all parties is bound to lead to serious communal situation in Bengal. I would appeal to my friends not to raise this issue but to accept the thing which has been practically recognised now by people all over. Every year at least, or rather over 10,000 processions are taken out and it is only in one or two instances where you have disputes, and the policy that we have decided to follow in such cases is, irrespective of whether the aggrieved party are Muslims or Hindus, that they must carry out the decision of the local officers on the spot. They have a right of appeal to the District Magistrate, then a right of appeal to the Commissioner and ultimately to the Local Government. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: When no decision is given, then hold it up.) Sir, Mr. Sanyal knows very well that they have not followed the steps that we have laid down and he wanted to have a short-cut and come to the Government straightaway and get something done which this Government is not prepared to do. That is just what we want to avoid influential men coming and getting a decision from Government by means of their influence. We want you to go and appeal to the District Magistrate; if you are not satisfied, go to the Commissioner; if you are not satisfied, come to us. Our decision will be final, whether it is against or for nobody can tell. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But if the officers frustrate the compromise.) Therefore, I feel, Sir, that the policy that we are pursuing as regards this vexed question of music before mosque is going to lead to communal harmony and avoidance of trouble and I hope that Muslims and Hindus will accept this and help us in maintaining our present policy.

Sir, some of the members have attacked individual officers. This, in my opinion, is unfair, as if any subordinate officer has been guilty of any misconduct, they can bring it to the notice of the Magistrate, Commissioner and ultimately to the Government. (Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: They do not even recognise this.) I consider that if Magistrates and Commissioners and Local Government do not find anything wrong, then that officer is right. (Laughter.)

Sir, as far as the question of choukidars is concerned, we realise that theirs is a hard lot, and at one time the Government contemplated making

extensive amendments in the Choukidari Act. There were financial implications in it and it also meant imposition of certain taxation on the Calcutta Corporation and other municipalities of Bengal. Since we have taken office we have had not the time to go into this question. We have been very busy with famine and the aftermath of famine and the honourable members must realise that this is one of the things which must have our prior attention. Rehabilitation and dealing with problems that have followed in the wake of famine are the first concern of the Government. All our officers, both in the Secretariat and in the mofussal, are busy with these problems and it is not possible to take up difficult and complicated problems of this character, until and unless we have been able to settle down properly and have put rehabilitation schemes on their legs. But here and there we have given relief. In Midnapore after the floods the chaukidars have got relief to the extent of 1 lakh and 90 thousand rupees. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: For efficiently burning the houses.) In Chittagong, Comilla and Feni, they have got some special allowance and there is a proposal to give them a very small relief immediately, but I may mention that if we increase their pay by one rupee on the existing basis the cost of the Provincial Government will be to the extent of 9 lakhs of rupees.

Dr. Sanyal has also raised the question of collective fines. After we took office there were only two or three cases of imposition of new collective fines. Most of them have been realised and it was not a live issue during our time. Had it been so I would certainly have looked into it and tried to deal with the thing properly. But I maintain that very small fines were levied during our term of office and excepting one case which he has mentioned, that of Dinajpur, where one individual made an appeal, there was hardly anything to be done. All that was done had been practically done in the time of the old regime and it was not a live issue and it is not a live issue now, and I believe there is hardly any likelihood of any collective fines being imposed in future.

Sir, I am reminded of the recent Japanese attacks in the Arakan area. The onslaught that has been made by the Opposition the other day and the jubiliation and the reports circulated and the propaganda that has been made remind me very much, as I said before, of a recent attack by the Japanese in the Arakan area. I sometime listen to the Saigon radio. I do not know if my friends opposite do, but they gave one to understand that after their attacks the entire Allied Army is going to surrender and they will be in Chittagong. Actually Buthidaung has been captured by the Allies and the Japanese are in full retreat. By the grace of God we are safe. Our reinforcements are arriving and the Opposition will be routed in the similar manner. (Applause from Coalition Benches.)

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and a division called while the division bell was ringing.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I must be fair to all concerned. It will be better if members of the Opposition go back to their own seats and members of the Government side also resume their seats. Mr. Zaman and Khan Bahadur A. F. M. Abdur Rahman, please go back to your own seats.

(Loud and continuous uproar.)

(At this stage the House was adjourned for half an hour.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Speaker, before you proceed with the voting, because that is what I suppose is your intention, may I make one submission? Unless Mr. Nooruddin makes an unqualified apology for having assaulted a member of this House we shall not allow the voting to take place this evening.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, already the rules of business have been broken, because this House stood adjourned at your instance after division had been claimed and the doors left open. After division had been claimed, it is possible that many members had gone away. In the circumstances, Sir, before amends, full amends, are made and an unqualified apology is tendered by Mr. Nooruddin, brother-in-law of Sir Nazimuddin, we are not going to allow the voting. (Uproar.)

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I rise to try if I can to bring peace in the midst of so much disorder. There is nothing to be afraid of me. I am not fit for pugilistic feats with a bad left arm, but I think it my duty, rather an unpleasant one, to say that the disgraceful incident which we noticed a few minutes ago is only the culmination of a series of such occurrences which have been taking place in the lobbies, outside the Legislature and practically all over the city. I do not wish to say anything which will raise controversy, but I have noticed two incidents which would show how much our parliamentary instincts have become utterly demoralised in our fight for securing as many votes as possible for the parties we represent. As a matter of fact, we are not honestly discharging our duties if we try to force opinions on other people either for or against particular questions. Yesterday, I noticed one member of the Scheduled Castes was leaving the House and was going home. Two Parliamentary Secretaries immediately pounced upon him as a falcon pounces on its prey. (Interruption.) I have not mentioned names. I am only saying—though I do not say that this has been done with the approval of the Ministers or of the Government party—this is how things are going on. He was hustled into the room and one Parliamentary Secretary sat on each side of him. Today the same thing happens.

Now, Sir, so far as this incident is concerned I was sitting here, and I cannot vouch for what had actually taken place, but I noticed that one member of the House who had always voted with us, with the Opposition, and who has come to attend the session today on our invitation and voted on the last occasion with us was sitting on the last row of the benches generally occupied by the members of the Ministerialist party. I noticed Mr. Zaman going up to him and I have it from him that all that he said was that he being a member of the Opposition should take his seat with the other members of the Opposition. (A VOICE: He was dragging him.)

In conclusion I would say what is most unfortunate is that several members of the Government party from the farthest end of the room rushed to the scene of disturbances. As a matter of fact, my esteemed friend,

Mr. Nooruddin, who happens to be a brother of the wife of the Chief Minister, gave a blow or assaulted Mr. Zaman. Upon that there was an indiscriminate assault. There is a feeling in this House to show our resentment in various ways, but I have appealed to them not to allow any disturbance but to allow the proceedings to go on. My own feeling is that I have got to consult my friends, the leaders of the various groups as to what should be our duty towards the proceedings of the Budget Session in view of what has taken place tonight, and in view of what has been taking place for several days, weeks and months past.

Now, Sir, it has been suggested that Mr. Nooruddin should apologise. That is a matter of detail. Whether he will do it or not I do not know. If he does, that is an end of the matter. If he does not, then we reserve to ourselves the right of announcing our policy tomorrow. (Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Why not tonight ?) I do not know if you can do it tonight. All these things have got to be decided in cool moments and not in a heated atmosphere. Therefore, I say, so far as we are concerned, we reserve the right to come to a decision as to what should be the policy and attitude of the Opposition towards the proceedings of the present Budget Session. The Government may pride itself on the fact that it commands at the present moment a majority. (Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: With the help of the Europeans.) With or without Europeans, because the European votes have got to be counted and we cannot ignore them. But we know how that majority is composed. In spite of all that, we have not got the slightest intention of obstructing the proceedings unless we are forced to do so either in vindiction of our rights or as a signal proof of our feelings towards the manner in which the members of the Government are discharging their duties. Now, so far as the present incident is concerned, if Mr. Nooruddin has got any statement to make he should certainly make that, and if necessary I will make a further statement after he has made his statement.

Mr. K. NOORUDDIN: After you gave your ruling Mr. Zaman did not go to his seat and he was asked to go over to the other side of the House. He was found to be dragging a member. I then went to help our members there. As soon as I arrived there Mr. Zaman pushed me (cries of "No., no" and "Lie, lie" from the Opposition Benches) and you must have seen that. It was Mr. Zaman who gave me the push first and I gave him a blow. (Interruption.) I apologise to you, Mr. Speaker, and through you to the House for my share in the disturbance that was created in the House. I feel that Mr. Zaman also should apologise.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Zaman, are you willing to make any statement ?

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: He is the aggrieved person and he will certainly make a statement.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Mr. Zaman could not understand what Mr. Nooruddin said. It has to be explained to him and that is the difficulty.

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall explain to him in Bengali; উনি বলছেন একটা অপ্রীতিকর ঘটনা ঘটে গেছে তার জন্য উনি হাউসের নিকট ক্ষমা চাইছেন।

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: সভাপতি মহোদয়! আমি ওখান থেকে যখন আসছিলাম তখন পালোয়ান সাহেব ওখানে বসেছিলেন। আপনি order দিলেন "go to your seats". আমি যখন আসছিলাম আমি দেখলাম বাবুদ সাহেব এবং অন্য কয়েকজন সরকারী পক্ষের সদস্য

পালোয়ান সাহেবকে টানাটানি করছেন। আমি ওনাদের বল্লাম পালোয়ান সাহেবকে ছেড়ে দেন। ইতিমধ্যে নুরুদ্দীন সাহেব ছুটে এসে আমাকে ঘুষি মারেন। তারপর সেলিম সাহেব ছুটে এসে বললেন "ভাইয়ে ভাইয়ে, কি হচ্ছে"।

Mr. SPEAKER: এবিষয় আপনাকে আর বেশী কিছু বলতে হবে না।

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: আচ্ছা, Sir, আমি বোসে যাচ্ছি।

Mr. SPEAKER: I have heard both sides. Mr. Nooruddin has apologised. (Several voices from the Opposition: To whom?) For the unpleasant incident that has taken place he has apologised to the Chair and to the whole House which includes Mr. Zaman.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: Sir, that will not satisfy us. We want an unqualified and unconditional apology from Mr. Nooruddin to Mr. Zaman; otherwise we are not going to condone him.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Badrudduja, he has already apologised. Let me explain. Will you please sit down?

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: He must apologise unconditionally. This Mr. Nooruddin rushed towards the Deputy Speaker in a threatening attitude and created another scene on a previous occasion. He must be made to offer an unqualified apology for assaulting Mr. Zaman (cries of "No, no" from the Coalition Benches) and for having created a disgraceful scene in this House (loud noise from the Coalition as well as from the Opposition Benches)——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. Will you kindly permit me, Mr. Badrudduja, just to say that when I was on my legs I did not expect this from the Mayor of Calcutta? (Loud applause from the Coalition Benches and cries of "Shame, shame" and "Withdraw, withdraw" from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after all these attempts on the part of the Opposition leaders to calm down the temper of the House, it is disgraceful on the part of the Speaker of the House to side with one party of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you kindly allow me to explain myself? What I meant is this—not that I meant any reproach for you, Mr. Badrudduja——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You did.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, at that time when I was on my legs I asked you to sit down and I did not expect that you would still persist in speaking. If you still say that there was—— (At this stage there was loud noise from the Opposition as well as from the Coalition Benches.)

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: Sir, you must not only be the custodian of the rights and privileges of the House but I expect you to be the defender of the dignity of the House as well. I have not to learn rules of business or parliamentary or constitutional procedure in this House. May I appeal to you in the name of constitutional procedure that of all persons you should not have cast such reflection upon the Chairman of another House in this way. I am surprised to see that of all persons you, as Speaker of the House, should be lacking in parliamentary etiquette. (Cries of "Shame! shame!" and "Resign, resign" from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Badrudduja, will you please allow me to explain—— (Cries of "No, we will not allow you to speak" and "withdraw" from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: As Chairman of another House I have been conducting meetings from day to day but I have never allowed such a disgraceful scene in the Corporation to mar or tarnish the dignity of that House for one single day but have very often brought order out of confusion amidst the most trying circumstances. But under your regime here you have allowed Mr. Nooruddin to create a disgraceful scene before your very eyes. You have not risen to the height of the occasion, you have not risen to the gravity of the situation but you have allowed this disgraceful scene to be enacted much to the disgrace of this House and of this Legislature. You as the Speaker of this House have allowed its proceedings to be interfered with and tarnished by such disgraceful scenes as have happened here. I appeal to you in the name of the dignity of this House and in the name of the dignity of the constitution to withdraw the remark which you have just made. (Loud noise from both sides of the House.)

Mr. ANANDI LAL PODDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I as Deputy Mayor of the Calcutta Corporation bring this charge against you that you have cast certain serious reflections upon the Mayor of Calcutta which is quite unworthy of the position which you hold here. Was it befitting your high position as Speaker of this House to run away from the House like a coward leaving behind that ugly scene to take its own course after declaring the adjournment of the House? If as a result of your fleeing away from the House any member had died as a result of injuries you would have been held responsible for that. (Cries of "Resign, resign" from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, you have given an unwarranted admonition to the Opposition which we will not tolerate.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think I have been misunderstood. I never intended to cast any reflection on the method of conduct of business by the Mayor of Calcutta within his jurisdiction. All that I intended to state was that he must be conversant with the rules of business and, as such, I expected that when I was on my legs he should not insist on speaking. That was what I intended and that was what I wanted to convey. (Loud noise from the Opposition Benches.) If members take the attitude that even when the Speaker is on his legs every member has got the right to go on insisting on speaking and go on speaking, then I think no business of the House can be conducted. As regards other reflections that have been made on me in this House today, I can only say that I have discharged my duty to the best of my knowledge and ability and according to the dictates of my conscience. If I have not fulfilled the expectations of this House I am prepared to resign tomorrow. (Cries of "No, no" from the Coalition Benches.) I cannot do anything better. That is all that is possible for me to do. I will consult the leaders of different groups and if the House so desires I will tender my resignation tomorrow. (Cries of "No, no" from both sides of the House.)

Now, so far as the business of the House is concerned there has been an apology from Mr. Nooruddin. The apology has been tendered. I have just tried to explain my position because my integrity and my honesty in the

discharge of my duties seem to have been challenged, but I still say that I am trying to do my duty according to my conscience and to the best of my ability and according to the light that is within me. It is most deplorable that such a thing should have taken place. It reflects no credit on anybody: it does not reflect any credit either on the Government or on the Opposition or on the Speaker. But an apology has been tendered by Mr. Nooruddin: that apology has been tendered to the Speaker who is, according to convention, the custodian of the rights and privileges and dignity of the House, and an apology has also been made to the entire House by Mr. Nooruddin: that apology includes an apology to any member in the House who is aggrieved. Therefore, I think that apology should be considered sufficient.

If anything more is needed, I think the members concerned may shake hands after the business of the House is over. I think that will be the best thing that I can suggest for the consideration of this House. (Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Let him come and apologise.) I think it will be better if they shake hands. If they can do it here and now, that will be the best. If they cannot do it now, I think that can be done tomorrow or on any subsequent date. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Delay will take away the grace.) I cannot force any member of this House to do any particular act or to proceed in a particular manner.

I appeal to the Leaders of the House to make up this affair and I still hope that it should be made up here and now and in a minute. It is a simple thing. In our parliamentary life we ought not to harbour any grudge or any ill-feeling against each other. May I appeal to Mr. Basu to see that the two gentlemen shake hands?

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, I should be most happy if such a termination takes place of such an ugly affair. It is for Mr. Nooruddin to come half way and then Mr. Zaman will be too ready to go and shake hands.

(Mr. K. Nooruddin and Mr. A. M. A. Zaman then shook hands in the well of the House amidst loud applause.)

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, before you proceed, may I make one humble request? I believe you will realise that your reference to Mr. Syed Badrudduja as Mayor was really uncalled for. Even if you feel, as you have said, that Mr. Syed Badrudduja should not have stood up when you were on your legs, you might have said "it was a conduct not worthy of Mr. Syed Badrudduja" but to say "it was not worthy of the Mayor of Calcutta" was certainly far from your mind. I believe the happy termination of this affair will be for you to withdraw this reference to the Mayor of Calcutta.

Mr. SPEAKER: I never intended to cast any reflection upon the Mayor of Calcutta. That goes without saying. I think I made that abundantly clear and if there is the slightest misgiving about that even now, I again say I never wanted to make the slightest reflection upon Mr. Badrudduja as the Mayor of Calcutta.

Let us proceed with the business of the House. I think I have to put the motion again.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100 which was moved to raise a discussion about—

(*i*) the general policy of the Government,

(*ii*) the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries,

(*iii*) the corruption and bribery,

(*iv*) separation of judiciary from the executive,

(*v*) method of transfer of officers,

(*vi*) retrenchment,

(*vii*) high pay of the superior officers and low pay of the lower grade officers,

was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—95.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi.
Abdul Jabbar Paiwan, Mr. Md.
Abdul Kader, Mr. (alias Lal Meah).
Abdul Majid, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Acharyya Choudhury, Maharaja Sashi Kanta, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh.
Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Aimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Badi Ahmed Choudhury, Khan Bahadur Haji.
Badruddoja, Mr. Syed.
Banerjee, Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Barman, Mr. Upendra Nath.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhowmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada.
Chaudhuri, Rai Narendra Nath.
Das, Babu Radhanath.
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.
Das, Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath.
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Edhar, Mr. Upendra Nath.
Fazlul Huq, Mr. A. K.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Golam Rabbani Ahammad, Maulvi.
Golam Sarwar Hossini, Mr. Shah Syed.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Alhadj.
Habibullah, Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hasan Ali Choudhury, Mr. Syed.
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Syed.
Jalan, Mr. I. D.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Khan, Mr. Bahendra Lall.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Lahiri, Babu Ashutosh.
Mahtab, Maharajadhiraja Bahadur Uday Chand, of Burdwan.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hossain, Mr.
Mookerjee, Dr. Syamaprasad.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Muhammad Solaiman, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mukerji, Mr Dhirendra Narayan.
Mukherji, Dr. H. C.
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra.
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh.
Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi.
Nandi, Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Paul, Sir Hari Sankar.
Poddar, Mr. Anandilal.
Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan.
Rajibuddin Tarafdar, Maulvi.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna.
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Roy, Shib Shekhareswar, Kumar.
Sasaulah, Dr.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Sen, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Sen, Jogesh Chandra, Rai Bahadur.
Sen-Gupta, Mrs. Nellie.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Shamsul Huda, Maulana.
Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan.
Sur, Mr. Narendra Kumar.
Thakur, Mr. Pramatha Ranjan.
Tofal Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji.
Wahed Rahman, Maulvi.
Yousuf Mirza.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

NOES—123.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakeem, Mr. (Khulna).
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Jabbar, Maulvi.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed (Noakhali).
Abdul Motaleb Malik, Dr.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Abdulla-al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr.
Abdur Rasehid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rashood, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Maulvi S. (Howrah).
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah (Rangpur).
Abdus Shahood, Maulvi Md.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Masud, Kazi.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Mirdha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Alifazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Anwarul Azim, Khan Bahadur Md.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Barma, the Hon'ble Mr. Premhari.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prasad.
Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Chakrabarty, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Chakrabarty, Babu Narendra Narayan.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Das, Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Das, Mr. Monmohan.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Farhat Banu Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Gladding, Mr. D., C.I.E.
Gomes, Mr. R. A.
Goswami, the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra.
Griffiths, Mr. C.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib.
Hamilton, Mr. K. A.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs. M.B.E.
Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Haywood, Mr. Rogers.
Hendry, Mr. David.
Hirtzel, Mr. H. A. F., O.B.E.
Hodge, Mr. H. R.
Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H., M.B.E.
Jalaluddin Ahmad, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Jalimuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Leish, Mr. John.
Mepherson, Mr. G. P.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Dr. (Bogra).
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib Maulvi (Tippera).
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Mandal, the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Abdul Halim, Molla, Mr.
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Mukerjea, the Hon'ble Mr. Tarakeath M. B. E.
Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behari.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Pulin Behari.
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur
Mustaqawsai Haque, Mr Syed.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.
Noorudin, Mr. K.
Norton, Mr. H. R., M. B. E.
Pain, the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prasanna.
Powell, Mr. J. A.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Sahebe-Alam, Mr. Syed.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Shahedali, Mr.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Skipwith, Mr. W. E.
Smart, Mr. J. N.
Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G.
Stark, Mr A F.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Stevenson, Mr. R. A. H.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr
Thorman, Mr. C. M.
Walker, Mr J. R.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M., C. B. E.
Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. S., C.I.E.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.
Zahar Ahmed, Choudhury, Maulvi.

The Ayes being 95 and the Noes 123, the motion was lost.

The motion of Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Atul Chandra Sen that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Atul Chandra Sen that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Ashutosh Lahiri that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

(Sir Henry Birkmyre rose in his seat.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, at this stage no motion should be allowed to be withdrawn. If any motion is attempted to be withdrawn we shall go to vote. At this stage no speech is allowed; only a point of order can be raised. If the honourable member wanted to speak, he ought to have done that earlier.

Sir HENRY BIRKMYRE: Sir, in view of the ample assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Leave has been asked for by Sir Henry Birkmyre to withdraw his motion. Is there any objection? (Cries of "Yes", "yes" from the Opposition Benches and cries of "No", "no" from the Ministerialist Benches.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. The European party has been consistently supporting the Government and has been identified with the Government party and so they should not be allowed to move cut motions, because it is the convention in this House that the Government party never moves any cut motions. It is the privilege of the Opposition to move cut motions. But here, Sir, the European party is moving cut motions and then trying to withdraw them at the end. I submit, Sir, that this is not permissible under the convention.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think I am not called upon at this stage to give any decision on the point of order raised.

The question that leave be granted to Sir Henry Birkmyre to withdraw his motion that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and agreed to. The motion was withdrawn.

The motion of Babu Radhanath Das that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Ramizuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Ramizuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Sanaullah that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Abdur Razzak that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, which was moved to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to stop recital of the Holy *Quran* in gramophone records, was then put and a division taken, with the following result:—

AYES—95.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi.
Abdul Jabbar Paiwan, Mr. Md.
Abdul Kader, Mr. (alias Lal Meah).
Abdul Majid, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Acharyya Choudhury, Maharaja Sashi Kanta, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh.
Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Azimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Badi Ahmed Choudhury, Khan Bahadur Haji.
Badruddoja, Mr. Syed.
Banerjee, Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Barman, Mr. Upendra Nath.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhowmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das, Babu Radhanath.
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.
Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Dolai, Mr. Harendra Nath.
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Edhar, Mr. Upendranath.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Fazlul Huq, Mr. A. K.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Golam Rabbani Ahammad, Maulvi.
Golam Sarwar Hossini, Mr. Shah Syed.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Alhaj.
Habibullah, Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jalan, Mr. I. D.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Lahiri, Babu Ashutosh.
Mahtab, Maharajadhiraja Bahadur Uday Chand, of Burdwan.
Maji, Mr. Advaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mandal, Mr. Sirat Chandra.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hosain, Mr.
Mookerjee, Dr. Syamaprasad.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Muhammad Solaiman, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mukerji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan.
Mukherji, Dr. H. C.
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra.
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh.
Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi.
Nandy, Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nasker, Mr Hem Chandra.
Paul, Sir Hari Sanker.
Poddar, Mr. Anandilal.
Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan.
Rajibuddin Tarafdar, Maulvi.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna.
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Roy, Shib Shekhareswar, Kumar.
Sanaullah, Dr.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Sen, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Sen, Jogesh Chandra, Rai Bahadur.
Sen-Gupta, Mrs. Nellie.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Shamsul Huda, Maulana.
Sinha, Srijut Maniendra Bhusan.
Sur, Mr. Narendra Kumar.
Thakur, Mr. Pramatha Ranjan.
Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji.
Wahar Rahman, Maulvi.
Yousuf Mirza.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

NOES—120.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakeem, Mr. (Khulna).
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Jabbar, Maulvi.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed. (Noakhali).
Abdul Motaleb Malik, Dr.
Abdulla-al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr.
Abdur Rasehid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rashood, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Maulvi S. (Howrah).
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah (Rangpur).
Abdus Shahood, Maulvi Md.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Hossain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Masud, Kazi.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hossain, Mr.
Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi. Md.
Anwarul Azim, Khan Bahadur Md.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Barma, the Hon'ble Mr. Premhari.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Chakraborty, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Chakraborty, Babu Narendra Narayan.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Das, Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Das, Mr. Monmohan.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Qundir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Gladding, Mr. D., C.I.E.
Gomes, Mr. R. A.
Goswami, the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra.
Griffiths, Mr. C.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh.
Hafizuddin Choudhury, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib.
Hamilton, Mr. K. A.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E.
Hatemaily Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Haywood, Mr. Rogers.
Hendry, Mr. David.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F., C.B.E.
Hodge, Mr. H. R.
Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H., M.B.E.
Jalaluddin Ahmad, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Leick, Mr. John.
Mcpherson, Mr. G. P.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Dr. (Bogra).
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib Maulvi (Tippera).
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Mandal, the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Abdul Halim Molla, Mr.
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Mukerjea, the Hon'ble Mr. Taraknath, M. B. E.
Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Pulin Behary.
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.
Noeruddin, Mr. K.
Norton, Mr. H. R., M. B. E.
Pain, the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prosanna.
Powell, Mr. J. A.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Saffruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Sahebe-Alam, Mr. Syed.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Shahedali, Mr.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Skipwith, Mr. W. E.
Smart, Mr. J. N.
Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Stevenson, Mr. R. A. H.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Thorman, Mr. C. M.
Walker, Mr. J. R.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M., C. B. E.
Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C. I. E.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.
Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi.

The Ayes being 95 and the Noes 120, the motion was lost.

The motion of Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Giasuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Sj. Narendra Nath Das Gupta that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. P. Banerji that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. P Banerji that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Patiram Roy that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Upendra Nath Barman that the demand of Rs. 1,40,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 1,14,13,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin that a sum of Rs. 1,40,13,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration", was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 9-40 p.m. till 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 18th March, 1944, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Saturday, the 18th March, 1944, at 10 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 13 Hon'ble Ministers and 200 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Shortage of small coins in post offices.

*176. **Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMBADI**: (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department aware of the fact that purchase of postage stamps is difficult in post offices unless the buyer takes with him the requisite amount of small coins for the purpose as no change is available in post offices?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of drawing the attention of the Government of India regarding difficulties?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Shahabuddin): (a) I believe so, but I have no special information.

(b) Currency is a Central subject. The matter is therefore for the Central Government to consider.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of Bengal has drawn the attention of the Central Government to this matter and asked for interference?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Yes.

Opening of relief kitchens by Government for relief of distressed people.

*177. **Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing for the districts of Midnapore, Tippera, Noakhali, Barisal, Rangpur, Chittagong, Burdwan and 24-Parganas the approximate percentage of total population that—

(i) have been rendered homeless; and

(ii) are without food by the—

(1) recent floods,

(2) last cyclone,

(3) for evacuation, and

(4) for other reasons?

(*b*) **Is it a fact that the Government have started free kitchens in some of the districts of Bengal?**

(*c*) **If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in respect of each of the districts referred to in (*a*)—**

(*i*) the number of such free kitchens;

(*ii*) the total amount of foodgrains required for all the kitchens;

(*iii*) the amount of money spent per week;

(*iv*) the number of heads fed; and

(*v*) the quantity of food prescribed per head of—

(1) an adult, and

(2) a child?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of opening sufficient number of free kitchens in the affected areas of the Midnapore district?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea): (*a*) (*i*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*ii*) The information is not available.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) (*i*) to (*iv*) A statement showing the present figures and the corresponding maximum figures attained during the period of distress is laid on the Table.

(*v*) The quantity originally prescribed was 2 chittaks per head for all, but subsequently it was raised to 4 chittaks per head.

(*d*) The number of kitchens was increased according to needs.

I.—Statement referred to in reply to clause (a)(i) of starred question No. 177.

District.	Percentage of population rendered homeless by—			
	Recent floods.	Last cyclone.	Evacuation.	Other causes.
Midnapore ..	·09	5·5	·14	Nil.
Tippera ..	Nil	Nil	·15	..
Noakhali ..	Nil	Nil	Not available	Not available
Bakarganj ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Rangpur ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chittagong ..	Nil	Nil	Not available	Not available.
Burdwan ..	2 to 5	·125	·45	Included in column 2.
24-Parganas ..	Nil	80 per cent. of police-stations Kagdwip and Sagore.	1·4	..

II.—Statement referred to in reply to clause (c)(i) to (iv) of starred question No. 177.

District.	Number of free kitchens started by Government.		Amount of foodgrains received per week.		Money spent per week.		Number of persons fed daily in—	
	Number now functioning.	Maximum number started during period of distress.	For each kitchen now functioning.	For maximum number of the kitchens started.	For the kitchen now functioning.	The maximum number of kitchen started.	The kitchen now functioning.	The kitchen when their number was maximum.
					Rs.	Rs.		
Midnapore ..	Nil	1,357	Nil	26,966	Nil	21,153	Nil	708,578
Tippera ..	65	498	12	3,369	7,633	45,175	5,316	61,728
Noakhali ..	Nil	604	Nil	3,835	Nil	76,700	Nil	110,152
Bakarganj ..	Nil	371	Nil	4,422	Nil	70,980	Nil	107,982
Rangpur ..	Nil	187	Nil	2,987	Nil	43,304	Nil	88,861
Chittagong ..	437	643	2½	2,460	9,614	36,900	39,840	111,707
Burdwan ..	14	251	26	2,950	870	71,100	3,500	89,000
24-Parganas ..	55	316	10	15,000	..	..	200 to 700	300 to 5,000

Bailing out polluted water from tanks in saline-affected areas of Midnapore and supply of sweet water.

*178. **Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that water of most of the tanks in the saline-affected areas of the district of Midnapore, specially of the Unions Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 18, 19 of police-station Contai, 4, 5, 6, 8 of police-station Khedgree, 9, 10 of police-station Ramnagar, in the subdivision of Contai, and 7, 13, 14, 15 of police-station Nandigram, in the subdivision of Tamluk, were polluted by the saline flood during the cyclone of the 16th October, 1942, and have been rendered useless for cooking and drinking purposes?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government up to this time since the reply given to unstarred question No. 45 on the 15th March, 1943, for the provision of sweet water in the saline-affected area—

(*i*) by way of sinking tube-wells in sufficient number;

(*ii*) by way of bailing out polluted water from big tanks;

(*iii*) by way of excavating new tanks or re-excavating old tanks either belonging to khas mahal or private owners; or

(*iv*) by way of drawing up a comprehensive scheme to bail out the polluted water from the sufficient number of village ponds and tanks as test relief work or by regular contract system before rains of 1943?

(*c*) If the reply to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of—

(*i*) sinking a good number of tube-wells where possible in the said area;

(*ii*) re-excavating all the khas mahal and big private tanks; and

(*iii*) bailing out the polluted water from at least 50 per cent. of the village tanks?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: (*a*) Yes

(*b*) (*i*) In the Contai subdivision 46 new tube-wells were sunk and 60 old tube-wells repaired and re-sunk and in the Tamluk subdivision 14 new tube-wells were sunk, 9 old tube-wells were re-sunk and 3 were chemically washed to make them useable.

(*ii*) In the Contai subdivision the polluted water was baled out of 792 tanks.

(*iii*) In the Contai subdivision 8 big refugee tanks were excavated and 314 private tanks re-excavated. In the Tamluk subdivision 4 big refugee tanks were excavated and 6 private tanks re-excavated.

(*iv*) The baling out of polluted water from tanks in the affected areas and re-excavation of some of them were taken up in pursuance of a comprehensive scheme of test relief works. Many more tanks are shortly to be taken up for re-excavation this year in the coastal areas under the Test Relief Scheme.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many tanks have been re-excavated within the area?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: It is already in the answer.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Was it done by private enterprise or by Government effort?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: By Government.

Co-operative stores for distribution of ration and procurement of "aman" crop.

***179. Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the names of co-operative stores which have been selected for distribution of ration in Calcutta and Howrah; and

(*ii*) the amount of financial help, if any, given to each co-operative store by Government either as (1) subsidy, or (2) loan, or (3) credit?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether all such co-operative stores have received financial help from Government?

(*c*) If not, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of extending financial help to such co-operative stores which have not yet got the same?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Co-operative Department propose to take to help in the procuring of *aman* crop by Government?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of encouraging the borrowers to repay their loans to co-operative credit societies in *aman* crop instead of cash wherever possible?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal): (*a*) (*i*) A list is laid on the Table.

(*ii*) Nil.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) The co-operative stores have not asked for any financial assistance nor are Government aware that they require any.

(*d*) Instructions have been issued to Co-operative Societies to buy *aman* paddy and rice from both members and non-members in rural areas and deliver the same to the Chief Agents appointed by Government. This has been done in consultation with the Civil Supplies Department.

(*e*) This is being encouraged.

List referred to in reply to clause (a) (i) of starred question No. 179.

CALCUTTA.

Shampukur ..	(1) People's Co-operative Stores, 37, C. I. T., Bhupen Bose Avenue.
Jorabagan ..	(2) Ward II, People's Co-operative Stores, 84, Aheritolla Street.
Taltala ..	(3) Calcutta Corporation Co-operative Stores, 10, S. N Banerjee Road.
Cossipore ..	(4) Janaseva Co-operative Stores, Ltd., 29, Barrackpore Trunk Road.
Maniktola ..	(5) Shambazar People's Co-operative Stores, Ltd., 12C, Radha Kanta Jew Street.
Ballygunj ..	(6) Ballygunj Consumers' Co-operative Stores, 182, Rashbehari Avenue.
	(7) Calcutta Co-operative Stores, Ltd., 208/4, Rashbehari Avenue.
Bhowanipur ..	(8) Bhowanipore Co-operative Society, 23/1, Dwarkanath Road.
	(9) Corporation Co-operative Stores, 114/4, Hazra Road.
	(10) Maharashta Co-operative Stores, Ltd, 85/1/1, Beltala Road.
Tollygunge ..	(11) South India Co-operative Stores, Ltd., 5, Bepin Pal Road.
Alipore ..	(12) United Friends Co-operative Stores, 20, Bridge Road.
Watgunge ..	(13) Kidderpore People's Co-operative Stores, Ltd., 70/1A, Ekbalpur Road.

HOWRAH.

Nil.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is one programme for the whole of Bengal?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of making one programme applicable to the whole of Bengal?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Hunger-strike by female security prisoners detained in Dinajpur Jail.

***180. Mr. JNANENDRA CHANDRA MAJUMDAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether—

(*i*) female security prisoners Mrs. Lilabati Roy, M.A., and others, detained in the Dinajpur Jail, went on hunger-strike in January and February, 1943; and

(*ii*) a male doctor took recourse to forcible feeding on them?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the grievances of which they were on hunger-strike;

(*ii*) the period for which they were on hunger-strike;

(*iii*) how the strike was brought to an end;

(*iv*) the reason for employing a male doctor instead of a female one for forcible feeding; and

(*v*) whether the grievances have been removed since then?

(*c*) Is it a fact that some male police officers entered into their yard on about the 26th January, 1943, and searched their persons in spite of their protests and in a manner strongly objected to by them?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(*e*) Does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of—

(*i*) asking any report from the Superintendent of the jail in the matter; and

(*ii*) placing a copy of it on the Table?

(*f*) Is it a fact that there is no arrangement for any recreation and supply of books to the female security prisoners of the said jail?

(*g*) If so, what action do the Government propose to take in the matter?

(*h*) Does the Hon'ble Minister contemplate the desirability of transferring them to some other jail where facilities for study and recreation will be available?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) Mrs. Leela Roy went on hunger-strike in March, 1943. Two other female security prisoners joined her in a partial hunger-strike.

(*ii*) No.

(*b*) (*i*) The alleged grievances were—

(1) want of separate cells for each prisoner,

(2) want of good medical arrangements,

(3) want of a place where they could have the services of convict attendants,

(4) lock-up at 9 p.m., and

(5) non-segregation from ordinary women convicts.

(*ii*) Mrs. Leela Roy was on hunger-strike for eight days and the other two female security prisoners for two days.

(*iii*) The strike was called off by the prisoners on their own accord as the following extract from a letter dated 30th March, 1943, written by Mrs. Leela Roy, will show: "This is to inform you that in view of the entirely new situation that had most unexpectedly arisen owing to the resignation of the existing Ministry we find ourselves faced with a new background in which to continue the hunger-strike would appear to be unrelated to facts. Taking a realistic view of this we have, after careful consideration, suspended the hunger-strike from 10-30 a.m. to-day."

(*iv*) In view of the answer to (*a*) (*ii*), does not arise.

(*v*) The grievances in so far as they were genuine or reasonable have already been removed.

(*c*) and (*d*) A search of the prisoners' rooms and personal effects was made but their persons were not searched.

(*e*) I am already aware of the whole facts. I am not prepared to place a copy of the report on the Library Table.

(*f*) and (*g*) No. They are allowed to play badminton and arrangements have also been made for them to obtain books from the local library.

(*h*) Does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what arrangements have been made to obtain books from the local library for them?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: They have become members of the local library and subject to the rules provided in the Bengal Security Prisoners Rules, namely, the scrutiny of books they are allowed to have books from the library.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us if they have been furnished with books from the local library on their requisition?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that no arrangements have been made by the local Intelligence Branch for censoring and supplying the prisoners with books from the local library?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what improvements have been made in the arrangements for giving medical aid?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: All facilities exist in the local jail for giving medical aid to the prisoners.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House with reference to answer (*b*) (*v*), whether they have been segregated from other women convicts?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There were only two women non-security prisoners under division II and they were put in the same yard.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is prepared to reproduce a gist of the report of the Superintendent although the Government is not prepared to place it on the library table?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in view of answer (*v*), what are the grievances that have been removed?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Grievances regarding provisions for reading and for games have been removed.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what the Government have done in respect of (*b*) (*i*) (*1*), viz., want of separate cells for each prisoner?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: On account of congestion in jails it is not possible to allot a separate cell to each prisoner.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what the Government have done in respect of grievance of (*b*) (*i*) (*4*), viz., lock-up at 9 p.m.?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: For disciplinary reasons it is not possible to allow prisoners to remain outside after the lock-up period prescribed.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is it a fact that no arrangement has been made by the local Intelligence Branch for censoring the books of which a list has been submitted by the security prisoners concerned?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The information of the Government is that prisoners were permitted to borrow books from the local library subject to the provisions of rule 17 of the Bengal Security Prisoners Rules.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House whether the security prisoners are segregated from the ordinary women convicts?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already stated that they are not segregated.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: In view of the answer given that on account of congestion in local jails certain things could not be done, will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of transferring certain prisoners to a Calcutta Jail where they can be given larger amenities which have been asked for.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The answer is in the negative.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us definitely what were their grievances regarding medical treatment and other arrangements?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Their grievances were mostly vague and the prisoners were asked to make specific complaints, if any. But no reply has been received by Government.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for not acceding to the request of transferring this prisoner to the Calcutta Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There is already congestion in other jails.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House of what offence the other women non-security prisoners have been convicted?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Grant of Government subsidy to Central Co-operative Banks.

81. Khan Bahadur Maulvi AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department aware that—

(*i*) the majority of the Central Co-operative Banks cannot meet their obligatory charges from their revenue income; and

(*ii*) the deficit is met from the capital?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government contemplate to grant subsidy to the Central Co-operative Banks for maintaining their staff?

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: (*a*) (*i*) No. This is not the case in respect of the majority of the Central Banks.

(*ii*) Yes, in some cases.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration of Government.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with regard to answer (*a*) (*i*), what is the number of Central Co-operative Banks which cannot meet their obligatory charges?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: As regards the number, I want notice.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: What will be the percentage of such Central banks to the total number of Central Co-operative Banks?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I want notice.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: With regard to answer (*a*) (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many such cases have come to the notice of Government?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I want notice.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state for how long this matter has been under the consideration of Government?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Government is considering if any bank cannot pay the staff even at a time when the money has become very cheap and the agriculturists have got the advantage of higher prices for their produce whether we should at all help such a bank and whether by helping such a bank we will not be putting a premium on inefficiency. We expect that societies should now be able to realise good amounts from debtors and they should not be running at a deficit.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: With reference to answer (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government is considering those cases where they have not been able to meet their obligatory charges from their revenue income?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Where we find that it is not due to any inefficiency on the part of societies, Government will be prepared to consider.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state where the Central Banks are found to be negligent of their duties, whether Government will consider the desirability of enforcing their own orders on them?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Yes, certainly.

Maulvi MOHAMMED ISRAIL: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether so far as old debts are concerned the Government is considering the question of making certain arrangements by way of reduction in capital and also interest so that it would be possible for the debtors to pay?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: There is the Debt Settlement Act for that purpose.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: In view of the answer given, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he does not consider it fit now that that Government will be pleased to pass definite orders against such banks so that they may not continue to be hard up?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: That is the duty of the department and the department is doing its best.

Payment of determination fees by Co-operative Societies under section 18 of Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act.

82. **Khan Bahadur Maulvi AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that—

(*i*) owing to the operation of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act, almost all the rural societies are running at a loss; and

(*ii*) they have to spend a large amount of money as determination fees under section 18 of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act and for taking certified copy of Awards of the cases settled by Debt Settlement Boards?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of—

(*i*) exempting the Co-operative Societies from the payment of determination fees; and

(*ii*) issuing instructions to the Debt Settlement Board for allowing certified copy of Awards to the Co-operative Societies free of cost in order to give them some relief?

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: (*a*) (*i*) This is not correct.

(*ii*) Like other creditors they have to pay determination fees equal to one per cent. of the amount of debt determined under section 18(*2*) of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act and fees for taking copies of awards at the rate of three annas for every 150 English or 300 Bengali words or less.

(*b*) No. The fees are not such as to cause any hardship.

Raising of fund for relief in Munshiganj subdivision.

83. Mr. DHANANJOY ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether the Subdivisional Officer, Munshiganj, in the district of Dacca, has raised any fund for the relief of the people of Munshiganj subdivision?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the amount so realised;

(*ii*) how it was spent; and

(*iii*) whether the account was audited by any Government auditor?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: (*a*) No. He only helped some local relief committee in raising funds.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of the local committees and the manner in which the Subdivisional Officer has helped in raising funds?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: It is a question of detail and I want notice.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House what amount was realised with the help of the Subdivisional Officer?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: As I have already stated he only helped them.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: What was the amount raised?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Nothing was raised by the Subdivisional Officer.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: I want to know the amount raised with his help.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I want notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Is the Government in a position to name any committee that the Subdivisional Officer helped in raising funds?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Local Relief Committee.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: In view of the fact that there have been complaints like this, will the Government consider the desirability of placing the relief committee outside the influence of Government officials?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I doubt where such a question at all arises. It is also the primary duty of the local officials to help such committees.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell the House whether the accounts of these committees which got the help of the Subdivisional Officer were at all audited?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: So far as my information goes the accounts are audited.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

43—Industries—Industries.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 33,83,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries".

Sir, I do not want to take up the time of the House at this stage. After the cut motions have been discussed, in replying to them I will make an effort to explain the policy of the department.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH SEN: Sir, I beg to move the motion standing in my name, viz., that the demand of Rs. 33,83,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about the policy, utter negligence, indifference and want of any programme on the part of the Government in respect of this department.

Sir, I say with regret that the tale about the Industries Department is the same old one of inefficiency, inactivity and sheer bungling. The ordinary provisions for the department, except one of Rs. 16 lakhs for subsidy to sugarcane-growers, remain almost the same. The actual Industries Budget is stereotyped and shows little variation which signifies that the Government have no policy and programme for the industrial development of the province. If there is any, it is a policy of negation and masterly inactivity, marked by utter negligence and indifference. If you find any sign of life in any section of the department, it is in connection with war supply. The Industries Department, in complete forgetfulness of its own functions, has become a huge war supply department working like an ordinary contractor in supplantation of businessmen. But it is not my intention to raise any discussion on this aspect of the department's activities this morning. Time and again much has been said about this on the floor of this House, but the Government have not found their way to mend their policy. So, I consider it as a mere waste of time to speak on this once again. Howsoever we may protest against this policy of a Government department appearing in the role of a war contractor in substitution of normal business, I think the Government will not budge an inch and things will continue as they have ben doing heretofore. Nor is it my intention to speak this morning on the inefficiency and corruption in the department. On several occasions in the past the attention of the House was also drawn to this failing of the department, but we find that it was all in vain. The same charge is even now being freely made against the department.

Sir, the war provided a most helpful atmosphere for the industrial development of the province as well as created numerous problems for our existing industries. It was therefore the general expectation that the Industries Department of the Government would be up and doing and the province enabled to cover to some extent the great leeway it has to make in the sphere of industrialisation. But I must frankly state that the Industries Department failed totally to rise up to the occasion. It remains a blunt fact. The department does not seem to have any knowledge of the industrial problems of the province, arising out of the conditions created by the war. Neither the Director of Industries nor the Minister in charge of this Department is aware of the multifarious problems with which Bengal's own industries have had to struggle hard since last year. If it were so, they could not have been oblivious of the needs of the industries. If it be that they were aware of these needs, then there must be gross dreliction of duty somewhere on the part of somebody. Industries have been suffering from shortage of raw materials and mill stores. Of the raw materials, the principal difficulty has been the lack of adequate supply of coal to the industries, although there was no dearth of coal at the pitheads. The problem has been essentially one of transport. I am aware of the shortage of wagons and that the Provincial Government are helpless in the matter. But are they aware that some of the industries organised their own transport arrangements in collaboration with the Railway Board, by which coal was moved to Calcutta partly with the help of water-borne traffic? If industries by their individual efforts could manage a rail-*cum*-river transport arangement of coal to Calcutta, it would have been easier for the Government with all their huge resources to organise a similar system of transport, much to the relief of industries in general. This would have also relieved the pressure on the railway system too. But the Government did nothing of the kind, with the consequence that many industrial concerns had had to suspend production for want of coal. Again, the Government also did not care to enquire what were and are the specific difficulties of industries in regard to supply of other raw materials.

In the next place, I would like to refer to one peculiar characteristic of industries in Bengal. It is a well-known fact that, whatever may be the reasons, the industries in Bengal in which the sons of the soil are vitally interested are mostly medium and small sized. Their financial resources are also not as it should be. The war however provided for those industries an opportunity to expand and develop, by making it possible for them to work on a profitable basis. But what of the future? Economists would warn us of an inevitable post-war slump and intensive foreign competition. Will these industrial concerns to whom I am referring, be able to stand the strain then? My answer is an emphatic "No", if they cannot strengthen their financial reserve power in the inter-war period. But they can do so by adding to their reserve funds and by raising additional capital from the public. But, Sir, as you know in May, 1943, the Government of India issued a new Defence of India Rule 94A prohibiting, without their prior consent, any fresh issue of capital or offering of securities for sale or renewal or repayment of any security maturing for payment in British India. This blanket control put an incalculable hardship on all industrial and commercial enterprises. This new rule did not permit Bengali enterprises to take

advantage of the growing industrial-mindedness of the people of the province. Besides, such a step would have been a right move in countering inflation, with successful results, by making it possible for industries to produce, with the help of increased capital and capital equipment, more finished goods available for civilian consumption. I would hence ask the Government to tell the House what steps they had taken in the matter. Did they take up the matter with the Government of India, making a special case for Bengal—a late entrant in the field of Indian industrialisation? If so, with what result? If not, why have they not done so? Neither am I aware that the Government are making any serious attempt for the post-war reconstruction and rehabilitation of our industries. The problem is a threefold one. First, it is the conversion of many smaller and cottage industries that are now catering to the needs of the war to peace-time needs of the people. Secondly, the strengthening of the existing industries by adding to their reserve power and competitive efficiency. Thirdly, establishment of new industries under the auspices of the people of the province, for which the province has the greatest natural facilities. A Post-War Reconstruction Committee has no doubt been set up by the Government, in emulation of the Central Government. But that Committee exists only on paper. We do not find anything to show that it is working. Nor am I satisfied about the composition of the Committee, as it does not contain representatives of different industries who are in a position, because of their long experience, to offer valuable suggestions that may be of great help to the Committee.

(At this stage the member reached the time-limit but was allowed to finish his speech.)

In the next place, I would like to say a few words about the development of cottage and village industries. The Industries Department has all along been making a show of this aspect of the industrial development of the province. The famine is past, but its aftermath is continuing. Many died; those who are alive are financially ruined. The problem is one of rehabilitation of those who are alive. One of the best methods is to give a push for the development of cottage industries in the villages in large numbers so that the people might have an opportunity to rehabilitate themselves financially. That necessary push however did not come from the department. The department allowed this conjuncture of circumstances to slip by. This is indeed deplorable.

Before I resume my seat, I would refer to specific items covered by this grant under discussion. The Government have asked for a sum of Rs. 16 lakhs to be given as a subsidy to sugarcane-growers, for enabling the mills to pay economic prices to sugarcane-growers. I am told that mills would be given a subsidy of 4 annas per maund of cane purchased by them from cultivators, provided that they pay a price not less than Re. 1 per maund to the sugarcane-growers. This would certainly encourage the growers to sell more cane to the mills and also to expand their cultivation. This is a move highly desirable in the ultimate interest of a well-developed sugar industry in the province. But Government should ensure that the sugarcane-growers get this subsidy in full.

Again, in respect of fisheries a provision has been made only for a paltry sum of Rs. 61,000. Only the other day His Excellency the Governor of

Bengal addressing the annual meeting of the Bengal Tuberculosis Association said to the effect that although famine conditions had improved, the marks of malnutrition would remain and that the effects of 1943 will leave their mark on the general health of the population for some time to come. If we are to counter the effects of malnutrition, it is essential that the food resources of the province should be largely augmented. In the dietary of Bengalees fish forms an important menu It is perhaps the only protein in general dietary of Bengalees. The fish resources of Bengal, which experts have warned are depleting rapidly, should therefore be quickly improved. The Government have set up a Fisheries Section as an adjunct to the Industries Department. But the amount of the grant provided is so small that practically the entire sum will be swallowed up in experts' and staffs' pay, honoraria and travelling allowances, and little benefit would go to the people. The money thus spent for the purpose may therefore be regarded as misspent. The amount of the grant should therefore be enhanced to a quite decent figure adequate for the purpose. Either you provide a decent sum that will be really useful or do not provide anything at all which will yield little tangible result.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 33,83,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the want of any sound policy for augmenting industries of the province.

Sir, I hope I can state without any fear of contradiction that if any department should have expanded its activities at the present crisis due to war and famine conditions it is the Industries Department. But, Sir, you will notice that the budget provision of the Industries Department does not show any inclination for expanding its activities; on the contrary the provision is even less than the revised budget estimate of the last year. Sir, the province may increase its burden of taxation in providing for doles, gratuitous relief and loans, temporary and insufficient, but that will not solve the present acute problem of this province. This province will have to help the people to rehabilitate themselves by a very careful, scientific and a comprehensive scheme of helping industries.

Sir, the previous speaker has drawn attention to what is necessary in the interest of the province. I shall not, within the short space of time available to me, dilate on the big industries that Bengal has a peculiar advantage for or on an electrification scheme which would help fostering of industries, big or small. But may I say that the Department of Industries, if they want to justify their existence before the people of this province, must at least try to help the small industries which are being carried on in this province. At this time, due to the elimination of competition from Japan and from other cheap centres of production, we have got a distinct advantage and this is the time when we should try to activise the industries in this province, particularly the small home industries, so that they may be put on a footing when they will be able to stand competition after the war is over. Sir, what is necessary for that purpose? I will choose for example a few instances. The Minister in charge coming from Dacca would readily be able to follow what I am requesting him to do. I

am not giving suggestions involving a tall order to the department, because I know it would be useless, but may I invite the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the handloom industry of the Dacca district? He is perfectly aware that in and around Baburhat in Narayanganj subdivision those who work on handlooms, mainly agriculturists, can and supply cloth which is certainly cheaper than the mill-made cloth at the present moment. He knows very well that that handloom industry is suffering, firstly, from want of supply of yarns at competitive prices, and secondly, these people who generally are engaged in agricultural work in the day and work at night cannot ply their looms because of want of kerosene which is not available to them.

Sir, recently I have heard that those weavers are on the verge of ruin because the booking from Jinardi railway station wherefrom on every *hat* day cloths worth at least two lakhs were booked has been stopped. No one knows for what. Is it not the duty of the Industries Department to see that these difficulties are obviated? Is it too much to expect that the Industries Department will at least see that those people who unaided by any Government help are carrying on in these difficult days may not suffer for such difficulties put in their way?

I may also point out to him that the button industry—mother of pearls and horn button industry—which is being carried on in Dacca, which is now to a large extent supplying war requirements, could be put on a very sound basis with a little help from the department in the way of standardizing them, in the way of getting uniform holes made with the help of small hand-machines and tools. There is also a very easy industry—choir and rope industry—which could also be helped.

(At this stage the member's time was up.)

My time is up, Mr. Speaker. I could multiply instances. May I, before I sit down, make a very earnest appeal that if they want to save the people of this province, the department cannot possibly remain idle, cannot possibly work merely, as my predecessor has pointed out, as agents for the supply of what war orders they receive here. I am sure those orders are helpful to the department and its officers in placing work and at the same time if they take a little interest in improving the quality, in helping them where there are difficulties by solving them, they will do a great good.

With these words I commend my cut motion to the acceptance of this House.

Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 33,83,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about village industry in the days of war.

বর্ত্তমানে আমাদের দেশের অর্থনৈতিক সমস্যা যা দেখা দিয়েছে এ সমস্যার প্রকৃত সমাধান করতে হলে আমাদের পল্লীর কুটিরশিল্পগুলির উন্নতিসাধনের জন্য বিশেষ চেষ্টা করতে হবে। বর্ত্তমানে যুদ্ধের সময়ও এই সব শিল্প-প্রচেষ্টার বিশেষ উন্নতিলাভের জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট কোন ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই। বর্ত্তমানে যে সমস্ত scheme তাঁরা করেছেন তার মধ্যে village industryগুলিকে উন্নত করিবার জন্য কোন ব্যবস্থা গভর্ণমেণ্ট করেন নাই। আমার মনে হয় যুদ্ধের কাজে যে সমস্ত প্রয়োজনীয় শিল্পজাত দ্রব্য লাগে তার অধিকাংশ আমাদের

দেশে তৈরী হতে পারে। এতকাল পর দেখতে পাচ্ছি আমাদের দেশে তার দু'একটা জিনিষ তৈরী করবার জন্য তাঁরা প্রস্তাব করেছেন। কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার আমাদের দেশে locomotive প্রস্তুত করার প্রস্তাব করেছেন। বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের এই বিভাগের ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী বলেছেন নানান রকম বড় শিল্পের প্রস্তাব অর্থের অভাবে করতে পারছেন না। কিন্তু আমাদের দেশের সামান্য শিল্প যা আছে, যেমন তুলা, পাট ও রেশমের দ্বারা তৈরী হয় যেসকল শিল্পজাত দ্রব্য, তাছাড়া ধাতুজ শিল্প, যেমন লৌহ, কাঠ, আসবাবপত্র, তামা, পিতল ও এলুমিনিয়ম পাত্র, চামড়া ও মৃৎশিল্প, কাঁসা দ্বারা যে সকল জিনিষ লোকের নিত্য প্রয়োজন মেটাবার জন্য গ্রামের যে সমস্ত শিল্পী রয়েছেন এবং নিজেদের জীবিকার্জনের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে ঐ সকল শিল্পকেও তাঁরা বাঁচিয়ে রেখেছেন সেই সমস্ত শিল্পী ও শ্রমিকদের সাহায্য করা গভর্ণমেণ্টের একান্ত কর্ত্তব্য। আমার মনে হয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট যদি কেবল নিজেদের শিল্প-প্রচেষ্টাকেই বড় করবার দুরাশার স্বপ্নে বিভোর না থাকেন তাহলে ঐ সকল শিল্প-প্রচেষ্টায় উৎসাহ দিয়ে দেশের এই দারুণ দুর্দ্দিনে দেশের অর্থনৈতিক সমস্যার কিছু সমাধান করতে পারেন। আজ পর্য্যন্ত বিদেশী ব্যবসায়ীদের দ্বারা আমাদের শিল্পের কি দুরবস্থা হয়েছে আপনারা সকলেই জানেন। কিন্তু বর্ত্তমানে দেশের মধ্যে ব্যাপকভাবে দেশীয় কুটীরশিল্প প্রচলনের জন্য দেশীয় শিল্পকে জনপ্রিয় করায় গভর্ণমেণ্টের উদ্যোগী হয়ে propaganda চালান উচিত। অন্যান্য দেশে যে সমস্ত হাতের জিনিষ তৈরী হয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে সেগুলির উন্নতি ও প্রতিষ্ঠা লাভের জন্য কোন রকম বৃত্তির ব্যবস্থা করা হয় বা অন্য রকমে সাহায্য করা হয়। কিন্তু ভারতবর্ষে গভর্ণমেণ্ট আজ পর্য্যন্ত এবিষয়ে কিছু করেন নাই।

আজকাল আমাদের বাংলা দেশে চিনি এবং ঐ রকমের আরো অনেক কিছুর অভাব ঘটেছে। গভর্ণমেণ্ট আবার কলগুলিকে একচেটিয়া করেছেন, কিন্তু যদি গভর্ণমেণ্ট ছোট ছোট কেন্দ্র করে sugar mills স্থাপন করেন তাহলে এই যুদ্ধের বাজারেও লোকে চিনি পেতে পারতো। দেশের বর্ত্তমান দুঃসময়ে জাতির মেরুদণ্ড ভেঙ্গে যাচ্ছে; এ সময়ে কামার জুতা প্রস্তুত ও চামড়া কারবারকারী প্রভৃতি দেশের যে সকল শিল্পীরা কোনমতে বেঁচে রয়েছে তাদের যদি উপযুক্ত সাহায্য না করা যায় এবং তাহাদের তৈয়ারী জিনিষগুলি যাহাতে বাজারে অন্য বিদেশী শিল্পজাত দ্রব্যের সহিত সমান দরে বিক্রীত হয় তাহার ব্যবস্থা না করেন, তাহলে ঐসব জাতি লোপ পেয়ে যাবে। এসব দিকে গভর্ণমেণ্ট যদি উপযুক্ত সাহায্য না করেন বর্ত্তমান দুর্ভিক্ষের দিনে জাতীয় শিল্পকে বাঁচিয়ে না রাখেন এবং জাতীয় সম্পদ বৃদ্ধির ব্যবস্থা না করেন, তাহলে তাঁরা দেশের কাছে অপরাধী বলে গণ্য হবেন।

আমাদের দেশের গভর্ণমেণ্টের যে আবার একটা শিল্প বিভাগ আছে সেটা দেশের সাধারণ লোকে জানে না। গভর্ণমেণ্ট সে সম্বন্ধে লোকের কাছে প্রচার করার কোন ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই। জনসাধারণ যাতে উৎসাহ পায় এমন কোন প্রচার আজ পর্য্যন্ত হয় নাই। অবশ্য মাঝে মাঝে মহকুমা ও জেলা সহরে কিছু কিছু প্রচার হয়, কিন্তু পল্লী অঞ্চলের লোক সে সম্বন্ধে খুব কম খবরই পায়।

আর একটা কথা আমাদের সর্ব্বদা মনে রাখতে হবে। যুদ্ধের বাজারে আমাদের যে সকল পল্লী অঞ্চলের শিল্পীদের তৈরী জিনিষ বাজারে এখন চলছে যুদ্ধের পর বাইরেকার ব্যবসায়ের প্রতিযোগিতায় তারা টিকে থাকতে পারবে কি না সন্দেহ। তাঁদের মঙ্গলের দিকে দৃষ্টি রেখে আমার মতে ট্যাক্স বসিয়েই হউক বা অন্য যে উপায়েই হোক পল্লী অঞ্চলের শিল্পীকুল তথা শিল্পজাত দ্রব্যগুলিকে বাঁচানো বিশেষ দরকার। গভর্ণমেণ্ট রয়েছেন শুধু নিজেদের propaganda করবার জন্যই নয়। অন্যান্য দেশের গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাদের নিজ নিজ দেশের শিল্প-বাণিজ্য আমাদের দেশে চালাবার জন্য কি চেষ্টাই না করেন। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় বর্ত্তমান

Bengal Government তা কিছুই করেন না। তাছাড়া নিজেদের চাহিদা মেটাবার জন্যই যে কুটীরশিল্পগুলিকে সাহায্য করতে হবে তা নয়, দেশের জাতীয় অর্থনৈতিক উন্নতি ও জাতীয় মঙ্গলের জন্যও বিশেষ প্রয়োজন। এই দেশেরই ঢাকাই মসলীন যে একদা গৌরবে পৃথিবীময় বিস্তৃত ছিলো সে সম্বন্ধে আমার পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী বক্তা Mr. Gupta যা বলেছেন সে কথাটাও আজ ভুলে গেলে চলবে না। এবং পূর্ব্ব গৌরব যাতে ফিরে আসে সে চেষ্টাও করতে হবে। আমাদের সেই গৌরবের কার্পাসজাত শিল্পকে বিদেশী বণিক তাদের নিজেদের শিল্পকে প্রতিষ্ঠিত করবার জন্যই ধ্বংস করেছিলো, সে কথাটাও আমাদের মনে রাখতে হবে। এখনো যুদ্ধের সময় সেই শিল্পকে নষ্ট করবার চেষ্টা চলছে। বর্ত্তমানে যে তাঁতি সম্প্রদায় এখনো বেঁচে আছে তাদের ধ্বংসের মুখ থেকে যদি আমরা বাঁচাতে না পারি তাহলে ভবিষ্যৎ বংশধরদের কাছে বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীরা কলঙ্কিত থাকবে। কাজেই শিল্প বিভাগের মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে মনে রাখতে হবে East India Companyর আমল হইতে আজ পর্য্যন্ত এদেশের শিল্প-বাণিজ্যের কোনই উন্নতিসাধন হয় নাই। বরং যুদ্ধের বাজারে আমেরিকা প্রভৃতি দেশ হইতে বিভিন্ন শিল্পজাত দ্রব্য আমদানী করে আমাদের শিল্প-বাণিজ্য প্রসারের পথ একেবারে বন্ধ করে দিচ্ছে। এই বিষয়ে বিশেষ সতর্ক থাকা দরকার এবং গভর্ণমেণ্টও উদাসীন থাকলে চলবে না। কারণ তাহা হইলে দেশ ধ্বংস হতে যেটুকু বাকী তাঁহারা তাহাতে সাহায্য করবেন। আজ দেশের যে অবস্থা তাতে শিল্পীদের রক্ষা করতে হলে গভর্ণমেণ্টের সর্ব্ব বিষয়ে সাহায্য ছাড়া উপায় নাই। সুতরাং তাঁরা যদি এ সম্বন্ধে কোন ব্যবস্থা না করেন তাহলে দেশের সুমুখে অপরাধী বলে গণ্য হবেন।

Point of Privilege.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of privilege, Sir. We did not select any specific motion on the Department of Fisheries on the expectation that Mr. Walker would move his motion and therefore we did not like to burden the agenda paper. In view of the fact that Mr. Walker has thought it wise not to move his motion, would you kindly permit me to move it?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think I can allow that. I do not know if when you sent in your list you knew whether Mr. Walker would move his motion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In my letter Mr. Walker's motion has also been included.

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall give my decision on seeing the papers.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: May I rise on a point of privilege? A member has the fullest privilege to withdraw his own motion. In that way if he chooses not to move it, it is his privilege which the House cannot deny.

Mr. SPEAKER: The point is something else. The point is that in the cut motions sent by the other side this motion has not been included.

Mr. J. R. WALKER: The reason why I did not move my cut motion is because of the objections raised in this House last night. I would certainly like to say a few words on the very important subject.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I beg to point out, Sir, that it should be the look-out of the people who want to have a discussion on that to put down their own motion so that in case the other member withdraws his

motion they will have the right to discuss it. Unfortunately, they have lost that opportunity and they should not be given the opportunity of moving this motion. If allowed, it will be creating a precedent which may not be to the best interests of fair debate in this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already said that I am not going to give my ruling at this stage because certain matter has got to be ascertained. Let me ascertain that first. In the meantime there will be no objection if Mr. Walker or for the matter of that any member of this House desires to speak on fisheries or any other subject of importance under this head. That is always open to members. The only barrier that stands in the way is in putting a particular cut motion to vote. There is no other difficulty whatsoever.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I do not want to press this matter. We are not inclined to go to voting today. If your permission is there to speak generally on the question that will do.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is always there.

Mr. J. W. CHIPPENDALE: On a point of order, Sir. Has the Speaker any right to compel any member to move any motion, or has the House any right to compel any member to move a motion? I think not! If a member wants not to move his motion, I do not think the Speaker can stand in his way.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no question of compelling any member to move his motion. Nobody has suggested that.

43—Industries—Industries.

Mr. GIASUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 33,83,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this to raise a discussion about not providing sufficient funds so that the Board of Industries can find out the possibilities of new industries in Bengal in comparison with other industrial provinces.

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, এই প্রস্তাব আনবার উদ্দেশ্য হচ্ছে এই যে, যখন Board of Industries গঠিত হয় তখন আশা করা গিয়েছিল যে, বাংলা দেশ Industriesএর দিক দিয়ে অত্যন্ত পশ্চাৎপদ, তখন হয়ত এই Board বাংলা দেশের উন্নতি করার উদ্দেশ্যে কিছু সুবিধা পাবে। কিন্তু এই Boardএর মেম্বর হিসাবে কিছুদিনের মধ্যেই বুঝতে পারলাম মেম্বররা ভাল কাজ করার কোন প্রকার সুবিধা পাচ্ছে না, কারণ যে পরিমাণ টাকার দরকার বাজেটে সেই টাকা ধরা হয় না। আমাদের মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় এ বিষয়ে সম্পূর্ণ উদাসীন তার নিদর্শন পেয়েছি কিছুদিন আগে যখন Board of Industries থেকে sub-committee করা হয় এবং স্থির করা হয় যে বাংলা দেশের বিভিন্ন স্থানে sub-committee গঠন করে তাঁত শিল্পের পুনরুদ্ধার করা হবে এবং এই তাঁতিদের দ্বারা standard cloth তৈয়ারী করে বাংলা দেশের কাপড়ের অভাব দূর করা হবে। বর্তমানে কাপড়ের যা মূল্য তাহাতে বাংলা দেশের শতকরা ৯৩ জন লোক কাপড় কিনিতে পারে না। সেইজন্য দেখা যায় বাংলা দেশের শতকরা ৯০ জন লোক বস্ত্রহীন। কিন্তু যদিও scheme তৈয়ারী হোল, Director মহাশয় বল্লেন আমার হাতে sufficiant fund নাই যার দ্বারা এই sub-committee কাজ করতে পারে। মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের নিকট deputation পাঠান হোল কিন্তু তিনি এ সম্পর্কে কোন প্রকার সাহায্য করতে প্রস্তুত হলেন না অর্থাৎ এই sub-committeeর যে কোন প্রয়োজনীয়তা

আছে সেকথা স্বীকার করতে রাজী নন। এই বোর্ডের এখন এক মাত্র কাজ হয়েছে বাংলার বিভিন্ন স্থানে যে সমস্ত Industrial loan দেওয়া হয়েছে, সেগুলির কত সুদ হওয়া দরকার, সময়মত আদায় হয়েছে কি না ইত্যাদি—একমাত্র কাজ। এই মাত্র কাজের জন্য একটা বোর্ড না রেখে একজন কাবুলীওয়ালা বসালেই হয়। আমার বক্তব্য বাংলা দেশের শিল্প অত্যন্ত অনুন্নত। যখন Industries Department নামে একটা department আছে এবং তার জন্য বহু টাকা পয়সাও খরচ হচ্ছে তখন এটা অত্যন্ত যুক্তিসঙ্গত যে, Board of Industriesকে যুক্তিসঙ্গতভাবে কাজ করবার সুযোগ দেওয়া গভর্ণমেণ্টের কর্ত্তব্য। কিন্তু এদিকে গভর্ণমেণ্ট দৃকপাত করেন না। শিল্প ছাড়া কেবল কৃষি এবং বাণিজ্য দ্বারা দেশের উন্নতি কেউ করতে পারে না। আজ বাংলা দেশে শিল্পের উন্নতি না হলে বেকার সমস্যার সমাধান হবে না। আজ বাংলা দেশ থেকে কোটি কোটি টাকা বিদেশে চলে যাচ্ছে। আজ একটা চাকরীর জন্য হাজার হাজার দরখাস্ত পড়ে। Unemployment problem solve করতে হলে বাংলা দেশে শিল্পের প্রসার হওয়া দরকার। যদি আমাদের দেশে ছোট ছোট শিল্প গড়ে উঠে তাহলে অনেক অল্প-শিক্ষিত যুবক নিজেদের ভরণপোষণের ব্যবস্থা করতে পারবে। এর দ্বারা বাংলার যথেষ্ট শ্রীবৃদ্ধি হবে।

আজ আমি এই সম্পর্কে আর বিশেষ কিছু বলতে চাই না এবং এই বলে শেষ করতে চাই যে যখন Board নূতন নূতন কাজ করতে চায় তখন শিল্পের উন্নতির জন্য নূতন নূতন scheme যাহাতে বাংলা দেশে প্রচার করতে পারে সেই সুবিধা Boardকে দেওয়া দরকার—সেইদিকে মাননীয় শিল্প-মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করছি।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 33,83,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, I move this motion with a view to raising a discussion about hardship caused through the interference of Government in the sale and distribution of sugarcane in the province and in the production and sale of silk yarn and cocoons.

Sir, I propose hereby to lay emphasis mainly on the manner and the method by which Government had thought fit to interfere in the free flow of trade in regard to these two commodities and not so much with regard to the other measures adopted by Government in furthering or promoting the cultivation of sugarcane or in extending the production of silk. As the House is well aware, during this season the Government of Bengal at the instance, I presume, of the Government of India thought fit to maximise the production of sugar in this province and with that end in view they proposed certain matters, again possibly with the help of the Government of India, to ensure larger supply of sugarcane to the mills. One of those proposals was, to cordon certain areas and to insist that all sugarcane produced within that area must be delivered to the mills concerned or to the mills' buying centres. My esteemed friend, Mr. D. N. Sen, who has naturally got a sympathy for the millowner, being himself a representative of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, welcomed that interference and he said that it was a good proposal more or less to permit the mills to obtain a certain supply at a stated price correspondingly with a subsidy to the sugarcane-grower. I had to join issue with him. I think that the Government of Bengal also now realise and if they are frank and truthful they have

no hesitation in admitting the same that it was a great blunder they committed in allowing any interference in the free flow of trade by a governmental fiat. In fact, I believe that the more progressive section of the Bengal Sugar Mills Association thought in the same way and did not like to have the cordon imposed for the delivery of sugarcane to their respective mills. And I thought, Sir, that some of those other mills which considered the Government interference more helpful than the normal machinery of trade have also now realised that they had made a great blunder for all years to come. The interference of Government has not led to a larger supply of sugarcane than what they would normally get for it has scared away the cultivators. In large areas the cultivators due to factors beyond their control could not make any arrangements to deliver the sugarcane in due time to the mills' buying centres. In certain places the mills did not for their own convenience start opening buying centres in good time to enable the sugarcane-growers to deliver sugarcane in those places and in certain areas the normal charge for transportation and cartage has been this year so much enhanced due to famine and other conditions that even the normal flow which could otherwise be contracted could not be actually gone through and as a result large tracts of sugarcane fields have up to this time remained unharvested. The sugarcne crop is still there and I am afraid many of these sugarcane cultivators will have no other alternative but to burn away the sugarcane crop on their land. I know at several places the cultivators have been faced with the serious problem of destroying the sugarcane which they feel would be most economical

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: It is another scorched earth policy!

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, the Deputy Leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party has suggested that it is almost one method of scorched earth policy that the Government has been practically encouraging. Sir, I am not putting it in a spirit of criticism but I am putting it as an humble suggestion from one who has carefully studied the question and has tried to help the Government to come and arrive at a proper decision with regard to what policy they should adopt. Sir, I submit that it has been a great blunder on the part of Government to take recourse to such a method even at the instance of the Government of India. The whole policy has not yielded any fruitful results and it is bound to react on future productions very seriously. Sir, there is another reaction that I have been noticing, namely, that among the cultivators who had in the past been in the habit of manufacturing small quantity of *gur* for local and domestic consumption, some have taken to thinking in this strain: "If I cannot manufacture *gur* for my own household use from sugarcane grown on my own land and if I cannot get my children fed with *gur* manufactured in my own house from my own produce of sugarcane, what is the use of my going on with this kind of production?" Therefore, Sir, there is a likelihood of the whole sugarcane production suffering as a result of this measure. It has been most shortsighted and dangerous to the future production of sugar in this province.

Coming now to the other question, namely, the question of silk industry, I submit with all the emphasis I can command that the interference of Government in this respect has practically brought the whole industry to ruin today. The Silk Control Order was promulgated early in March, 1943.

Immediately thereafter, we in this House from all sections who were interested directly or indirectly in the advancement of the silk industry in the province voiced our protest and warned the Government against the dangers. Thereafter, a small committee was appointed by the then Government to go into the whole question properly, particularly in view of certain commitments made by Government over the head of the Minister in charge —the officials had done this without the knowledge of the then Minister in charge. What happened? That committee sat and after having carefully examined all the implications involved, they made certain specific recommendations. That committee was not allowed to go into the question of the propriety or otherwise of the control at all, because they said it was a settled fact and in view of certain commitments made to the Government of India they could not go back on it. But, Sir, they emphasised that if it was absolutely necessary to enforce the control, steps should be taken along lines which they indicated. First, the control scheme should cover not only re-reeled silk (D, E, F and G grades) but also *charka* silk. Our suggestion was that the control must be operative throughout the whole industry and not merely over that class of filature silk which was required for supplying the Government of India goods. I made it quite clear that if Government wanted to keep down the prices of better quality silk leaving *charka* silk uncontrolled, then the price of *charka* silk would go up twice more than the Government controlled silk and that apprehension of mine has come true. Government did not take my advice and also the advice of the committee appointed. Today *charka* silk is being sold from Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 a pound and the Government controlled silk of a much better quality is being sold and is being compelled to be sold at Rs. 28 per pound. The result is that all the efforts of the Government for many years to improve the quality of silk have now got a set-back because manufacturers find it more convenient and profitable to produce bad quality silk as that sells at a higher price.

Sir, the second suggestion that the committee made——

(At this stage the blue light was lit.)

Sir, I want five minutes more. Two of our speakers did not move their motions

Mr. SPEAKER: You just finish as soon as possible.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The second suggestion was that the Bengal Government should set up a machinery for the purchase of the entire production of all grades of silk including *charka* silk and distribute the *charka* silk to the trade in accordance with some approved scheme of distribution at the rates available in the market.

Thirdly, we suggested that the profits to be earned from these transactions should be earmarked for the improvement of the industry and should be spent mainly for improving cottage reeling and for primary cocoon-growers for enabling them to extend their mulberry plantation and also to improve their yield.

It is noticed that persons outside Bengal are prepared to pay for silk purchased at price much higher than what the local producers could get here locally. We said that it would be simply ruining the industry if under the

lower price here when it could be sold through the black market at a higher price outside and we suggested that Government might take control over the whole thing.

(At this stage the red light was lit.)

Sir, may I have two minutes more?

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, your party has practically taken up the whole time. All right, one minute.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, the committee was presided over by the Director of Industries. I have no time to go through the other recommendations. He and other experts of the department entirely agreed with all the recommendations made by us in that committee and although these recommendations were with the Government for nearly one year now, I understand Government have so far done nothing on those lines. They might be giving their promises every time we met and explained and submitted our representations to the Hon'ble Minister in charge. He said "Well, the matter is receiving my consideration and Government is doing it"'. They have accepted the general principle, but I do not know when that principle will be actually put into operation. In the meantime, the whole industry is in ruin. The weavers of Bengal—four thousand of them —are engaged in this silk industry. At a minimum level of 5 seers or 10 lbs. a month, they require about 40,000 lbs. a month. The production of cocoons in this province today is such that in the *Chaitbandi* the cocoons will not come up to 30,000 lbs. and the result will be that we cannot get even the minimum for feeding or maintaining the 4,000 weavers in Bengal supplied with the necessary raw silk. In the circumstances, black-marketing of cocoon is going on. There is cocoon ordered but cocoon cannot be had at prices mentioned by Government and *charka* silk not being controlled, *basnis* and reelers of *charka* silk can go and very well buy in the market at a much higher price. The result is that mulberry factories are not getting cocoon.

Sir, the Government of Bengal promised to supply the Government of India with 80,000 lbs. of raw silk. They have so far been able to supply only 1,700 lbs. and they have now promised 30,000 lbs. out of the *Chaitkist* production. They will not be able to get even 5,000 lbs. supplied out of the same. On the contrary, the whole industry will be ruined and unless the matter is properly gone into, I am sure the interference that Government has sought to impose on the industry will bring ruin to the whole industry and will bring suffering to a large number of weavers—most of them are Muslims.

Point of Privilege.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: On a question of privilege, Sir. Yesterday——

Mr. SPEAKER: Does it arise out of the present discussion?

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then, not now.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, it is a very important matter of privilege.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will allow you but, I think, not at this stage if it does not arise out of the present matter.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, it may arise out of the whole form the discussion is taking because we get no time to express our ideas. It has become generally impossible to speak in this House. They take away two days and we do not get even two minutes. I should like you, Sir, to protect our right of speech also.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is why I enquired whether it arises out of the present discussion. If that is not so, it is quite a different matter.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: After the red light, you gave him one minute but he took four or five minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is wrong.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: It is wrong but it is allowed.

Mr. SPEAKER: I asked my officer whether he was exceeding the time —I thought he was exceeding.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: He always exceeds.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think so.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: The debate must come to this side also. We respectfully submit that we are not getting justice. This side of the House has a right to speak and I seek your protection and I also seek your guidance in this matter. You do not say when we shall speak. After they have spoken on perhaps a hundred cut motions, we shall not have any time to speak. Let us discuss one cut motion and have a full debate on it. Therefore, Sir, I want you kindly to so distribute the time between the two sides that we also get a chance of speaking.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, we are not prepared to allow that position on budget cut motion. When Government have the responsibility of running the administration, the cut motions will have——

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, we have a right to speak and we must express our views. Every case has two sides and the other side of the case also must be presented. It is the duty of the Chair to grant that opportunity. We cannot allow the whole time to be taken by 2,000 cut motions.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Siddiqi, I quite appreciate your remark that the Government side must be given some time to discuss the budget and it is only fair that the time should be distributed equitably. Now, the question is what would be an equitable distribution and I am giving you this assurance that I will henceforth consult the Whips and then decide as to what time should be allotted to which side and then that time will be distributed among the respective party members.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I submit that in apportioning time——

Mr. SPEAKER: It cannot be decided by discussing here. I will consult you.

43—Industries—Industries.

Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 33,83,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about—

(*i*) the stoppage of electrification in the town of Suri, by taking hold of the machineries purchased by the licensee;

(*ii*) failure of industrial demonstration in the rural area.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, গত ৭।৮ বৎসর পূর্ব্বে সিউড়ী সহরে electrificationএর জন্য কলিকাতার একটি ভদ্রলোককে licence দেওয়া হয়। Licence দিবার পর বহুদিন licenceএর স্বত্ব লইয়া বিলম্ব হইলেও পরে উহার পরিসমাপ্তি ঘটে। Licence লইবার পর licensee কার্য্যের উপকরণ সংগ্রহ ও অন্যান্য ব্যবস্থা করিতে উৎসাহের সহিত লাগিয়া পড়েন। ছয় বৎসর পূর্ব্বে ইহাদের power houseএর ভিত্তি প্রতিষ্ঠা করিবার জন্য তদানীন্তন মন্ত্রী Sir Bijoy Prasad পৌরহিত্য গ্রহণ করেন এবং সাফল্যের সাথে অনুষ্ঠানটি সুসম্পন্ন হয়। এবং বিশেষ দ্রুতগতিতেই গঠনকার্য্য সমাধা হইয়া যায়।

ইতিমধ্যে বহুতর জিনিষপত্র, যথা—posts, wire ইত্যাদি আসিয়া পড়ে। একজন বিশিষ্ট Engineer উপস্থিত থাকিয়া কার্য্য নির্ব্বাহ করিতেছিলেন। Power houseএর গঠনকার্য্য শেষ হইলে যখন engine ও অন্যান্য কলকব্জা দ্বিগুণ-ত্রিগুণ মূল্যে সংগৃহীত হইয়া কলিকাতায় মজুদ ছিল, এবং সিউড়ীতে আনীত হইয়া কার্য্য আরম্ভ করিবার কথা হইতেছিল, এমন সময় হঠাৎ শোনা গেল যে কলিকাতায় মজুদ করা যাবতীয় কলকব্জা Government হইতে আটক করা হইয়াছে, অর্থাৎ গভর্ণমেণ্ট নিজেদের অন্য কার্য্যের জন্য সেগুলি গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন। আপাততঃ সিউড়ীর অদৃষ্টে বিজলীবাতির কোনও আশা নাই। জিনিষপত্র যথাস্থানে গুছাইয়া Engineer সাহেব বাড়ী চলিয়া গেলেন, এবং সহরবাসী বিদ্যুতের প্রতীক্ষায় আকাশের দিকেই চাহিয়া রহিল।

এই আশ্চর্য্য কাহিনীর মূলে কোন্ গূঢ় নীতি লুক্কায়িত আছে তাহা আমাদের অজ্ঞাত। Government হয়ত বলিবেন—"আরো বিশেষ জরুরী কার্য্যের জন্য ঐ কলকব্জাগুলির প্রয়োজন ছিল। কিন্তু তৎপূর্ব্বে অন্য প্রয়োজনীয়তাকে তদ্বদস্থানেই দেওয়া হইয়াছিল। একটা প্রয়োজনীয় কার্য্য করিতে করিতে যখন উহা প্রায় সম্পূর্ণ হইতে চলিয়াছিল, এমন সময় সকলের আশা-ভরসা বন্ধ করিয়া, licenseeর কতকগুলি অর্থ-শ্রাদ্ধ করিয়া বিপন্ন করা, ইহা কি গভর্ণমেণ্ট ইচ্ছা করিলে না করিতে পারিতেন না? মফঃস্বলে electrification প্রচলিত হইলে শুধু আলোক প্রদান ব্যতীত কতকগুলি ছোট-ছোট শিল্পদ্রব্যেরও উন্নতি হওয়ার সম্ভব ছিল। কিন্তু অন্য প্রয়োজনীয় কার্য্যের জন্য তাহা হইল না। সিউড়ী বাসীর পক্ষ হইতে আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি ইহা কি আর কোন দিন সম্ভব হইবার আশা আছে? Government কি বর্ত্তমানে এই অসম্পূর্ণ কার্য্যটি পূর্ণ করিতে প্রস্তুত আছেন।

Industry Departmentটা বহুদিন হইতে দেশের শিল্প-কার্য্যের উন্নতির জন্য প্রতিষ্ঠিত হইয়া কার্য্য করিয়া আসিতেছে। কতিপয় উচ্চ বেতনভোগী কর্ম্মচারীও নিযুক্ত হইয়া নির্ব্বিবাদে আসন রক্ষা করিতেছেন। কিন্তু কোন দিন কি একটা হিসাব করিয়া দেখা হইয়াছে বছরে বছরে কতগুলি অর্থ ব্যয় করিয়া কতকগুলি ব্যক্তিকে পোষ্যপুত্রের মতন পোষণ করায় জনসাধারণ কিভাবে এবং কতটুকু উপকৃত হইতেছেন?

কলিকাতার সহরে একটি Industry Departmentএর factory আছে; এবং কয়েকটি বিভাগে শুনা যায় মধ্যে মধ্যে কয়েকজন করিয়া শিক্ষানবীশ গ্রহণ করাও হইয়া

থাকে; কিন্তু কলিকাতা বাদ দিয়া কিছু বাহিরে গেলে আর কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানের অস্তিত্ব দেখা যায় না। সুতরাং মফঃস্বলবাসী কোনও দরিদ্র সন্তান অভাব এবং ইচ্ছা সত্ত্বেও ইহাদ্বারা মোটেই উপকৃত হয় না। তিন বৎসর পূর্ব্ব পর্য্যন্ত মধ্যে মধ্যে মফঃস্বলে demonstration party যাইয়া ছাতা ও জুতা তৈয়ারী, সাবান সম্বন্ধে বক্তৃতাও কিছুদিন শিক্ষা দেওয়া হইত। কিন্তু বর্ত্তমানে এই প্রচেষ্টা বন্ধ কেন করা হইয়াছে তাহা জানা যায় না। দেশের দরিদ্র সন্তান কোনও বিষয়ে শিক্ষালাভ করিয়াও অর্থাভাবে কোন কার্য্য করিতে পারে না। ইহার মধ্যে যাহারা সত্যই অক্ষম, তাহারা যাহাতে তাহাদের গৃহীত কার্য্যে সফলতা অর্জন করিতে পারে সে বিষয়ে মনোযোগ দিতে Government কি ধর্ম্মতঃ ও ন্যায়সঙ্গত হিসাবে দায়ী নহেন? কুটীরশিল্পের প্রসারতা বৃদ্ধি বর্ত্তমান যুগে জনসাধারণকে বাঁচাইবার একটী অতি প্রয়োজনীয় উপায়। এমন কি একমাত্র উপায় বলিলেও অত্যুক্তি হয় না। কিন্তু Governmentএর পক্ষ হইতে তাহাদের চিরাচরিত ঔদাসীন্যের আজ পর্য্যন্ত কোনও পরিবর্ত্তন না দেখিয়া জনসাধারণ সকল দিক দিয়াই অসহায় ও দীন হইয়া পড়িয়াছে। দেশের দারিদ্র্য ও নিঃসহায়তা ক্রমশঃ বাড়িয়া চলিয়াছে—অর্থাভাবে, অন্নাভাবে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক কুকুর বিড়ালের মত মরিয়া যাইতেছে কিন্তু সরকার বাহাদুর হিমালয়ের মত অচল ও অনড় অবস্থায় বসিয়া থাকিয়া কেবল তাহার অস্তিত্বের প্রমাণ দিতেছেন!

আমরা কেবল জানিতে ইচ্ছা করি, কোন্ শুভদিনে এ অবস্থার পরিবর্ত্তন ঘটিবে? মনে হয়—ভারতবর্ষ স্বাধীনতা লাভ না করিলে বুঝি কোনও শুভ পরিবর্ত্তনই সম্ভব নহে। তবুও সরকার বাহাদুরের কণামাত্র শুভদৃষ্টি আমাদের জীবন-মরণের দিকে আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। সংক্ষেপে এই কথা কয়টি বলিয়া আমার ছাটাই প্রস্তাবটি পরিষদে সমর্থন ও গ্রহণের জন্য উপস্থাপিত করিলাম।

Mr. J. R. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my honourable friend Mr. Sen made a few references to the Department of Fisheries, and I would like to make a few remarks also on that very important subject.

For years my party have been urging Government to take steps to develop the Bengal fisheries. Last year I felt so dissatisfied with the lack of progress that I moved a cut motion on the inadequacy of provision for the Department of Fisheries. The then Chief Minister gave me a number of assurances and stated: "We will see that we do something to remove the complaints made in the House. We will really do something substantial and we shall see that the supply of fish is increased". In view of the Chief Minister's assurances, I withdrew my cut motion.

The position as we all know, has seriously deteriorated since March, 1943. There is a scarcity of fish everywhere, in spite of the fact that we know fish is abundant in Bengal's fisheries, and prices are generally exorbitant. This deterioration can, of course, be ascribed to natural reasons arising out of war conditions, and we would have been satisfied if there was evidence that Government were seriously tackling the situation. In the budget estimates for the current year, the sum voted was the miserable one of Rs. 53,000. According to the revised estimates not even that sum has been spent. For 1944-45 the sum proposed to be voted is the pitiably inadequate one of Rs. 61,000. I ask, Sir, if this shows a proper appreciation of the problem of organising and developing our fisheries in such a way that at least one necessary item of food may be available to the public at reasonable prices.

This criticism is unfortunately confirmed by the reply of the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture to the question asked by me on 26th February. The Hon'ble Minister in his reply disclosed that the staff sanctioned for the department, consisted of a technical staff of 4 District Fishery Officers, and 5 Field Assistants and of a non-technical staff of 1 head clerk, 1 stenographer, 2 clerks and 1 typist. Words fail me with regard to the pitiable inadequacy of this staff. What is worse, Sir, only two of the four District Officers have actually been recruited, although the department was set up in May, 1942.

I do not know what has hindered the recruitment of the full quota of the technical staff, but I would like to be assured that it has not been the application of the communal ratio. It is the view of my party that such technical appointments must not be hindered by a rigid application of the communal ratio, and if candidates are not available from a particular community, then in our view the appointments should be thrown open to all communities. Apart from this aspect, however, the staff sanctioned is obviously not nearly sufficient. Government have recruited a first class expert as Director of Fisheries, but so far they have refused to give him either funds or organisation. They have in effect condemned him to act as an office boy tied to an office desk. This, Sir, is discouraging treatment for a first class technical expert. Look at the organisation in Madras; there, Sir, the Director of Fisheries has one or more Assistant Directors who enable the Director to do the touring and research work for which he is fitted. What does the Hon'ble Minister propose to do to expand the hopelessly inadequate organisation of the Department of Fisheries?

The reply to my question was given by the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and it disclosed one positive fact, namely, that the development of Bengal's fisheries had recently been made part of the "Grow More Food" campaign. This, Sir, is however belied by the estimates where the miserable pittance for the Department of Fisheries still appears in the Demand for Industry. I presume however that the estimates were prepared after the decision that the Department of Agriculture should take over the Department of Fisheries. Asked, Sir, what schemes have been sanctioned for the development of Bengal's fisheries, the Hon'ble Minister stated that "a small experimental scheme for the improvement of the preserved fish industry of Bengal has been started with the aid of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research from the 4th January, 1944. Several other schemes such as growing of fish in paddy fields, free distribution of fish fry and granting loans for improvement of tanks are under consideration". Sir, this is just tinkering with the problem. The reply to a further question as to what steps had been taken to increase the supply of fish to Calcutta from the Sunderbans was that "experiments and propaganda on a limited scale were undertaken with a view to extending carp culture in the Sunderbans *abads*, both in paddy fields and in extensive *khals* and tanks". That, Sir, I submit was no reply at all to my question. I would like to know what efforts have been made to secure motor launch or trawler transport for the supply of fish from the Sunderbans to Calcutta. I feel, Sir, that if the matter was taken up energetically with the military authorities Government would receive substantial assistance which would be of great benefit to Calcutta. I would like to know if the Hon'ble Minister has taken up this question with

the military authorities and, if not, if he will do so. There should surely now be no difficulty in our present emergency-circumstances in securing back the motor launches which used to bring a large supply of fish from the Sunderbans to Calcutta.

What we want, Sir, is a comprehensive scheme which will provide—

(1) for the rehabilitation and organisation of the fishermen;

(2) for the organisation of the marketing of fish which, as I have said on many occasions, is at present in the hands of a ring of middlemen who are exploiting the fishermen; and

(3) arrangements including transport for an increased supply of fish to urban areas.

I am glad, Sir, to see that Government have made a start in providing boats to fishermen, but this, Sir, should only be a part of a comprehensive scheme for the development and organisation of the fishing industry. Research schemes and schemes for encouraging the development of fish in paddy fields, etc., are no doubt valuable and necessary but they do not touch the fringe of the main problem, which is to organise the fishermen and increase the supply of fish at reasonable prices. I think, Sir, that Government should take steps immediately to frame a comprehensive scheme for this purpose, and I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister that this will be done.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Sir, today I shall like to give a few suggestions to my leader for his consideration. Salt, as a cottage industry, to my mind, deserves his serious attention.

A few decades ago Bengal was self-sufficient in her production of salt. The Government at the Centre was not sympathetic. Bengal was made to suffer and her salt industry was sacrificed in the interest of the salt industries developing in the ports on the Red Sea. Today the position is that we are not able to procure even the most essential commodity required for our existence.

Leaders in the past made some move to remove the obstacle but efforts were made on an all-India basis and never in the interest of Bengal.

Here in Bengal coast lands are so abundant, saline water enters our lands and any villager is able to prepare salt not only for his own use in his own household. He can produce quantities for trade and even for commercial purposes. But the handicaps were and are there. Even the Gandhi-Irwin pact has not carried us far; our people are not able to produce salt for trade and commercial purposes.

Now the plea of the Government of India may be one of revenue only. If they are not prepared to part with any part of the revenue I shall be prepared to suggest that the peoples' right to make salt be recognised and the Government of Bengal be prepared to collect the revenue for the benefit of the Centre. In extreme cases where it is not found possible I shall go further to tell my leader that he should not hesitate to compensate the Central Government out of the Bengal exchequer and yet have the right of the people to make salt from the saline water found at their very door. The fight must be done in right earnest.

We must realise that salt is an element we have to begin our *Bismillah* with when we take a morsel of food and the Supply Department was not able to procure salt for us. In black market salt is sold at a fabulous price and in many places people had to go without it even when they were ready to have it at a very high price.

The problem therefore is of great urgency and cannot brook even a day's delay.

I leave the matter to the consideration of the Hon'ble Minister in charge.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: So far as the Industries Department is concerned, Sir, I have certain observations to make. There are certain institutions which are run on the grant-in-aid basis, but the result yielded therefrom is not satisfactory. The persons who get their training in those institutions cannot make a decent earning—not to speak of a decent earning, they cannot even earn their bare sustenance.

Then there is some difficulty with regard to the weaving institutes. Yarn is not now available and there is the Yarn Control Order of Government. Sir, I am connected with certain institutions and I am trying to get yarn, but I have not so far been able to secure yarn at the controlled price. This is the most opportune time, Sir, to push on industries on a sound basis. Sir, we are suffering from various difficulties so far as finished goods manufactured in small industrial concerns are concerned, namely, glasswares, enamelwares, chinawares, the prices of which have gone up to a very great extent in recent years. But, Sir, Government have not come up with any proposals for the local manufacture of such articles on a huge scale to meet the requirements of the civilian population. I would therefore urge upon the Government to see that glass, enamel, aluminium and china ware industries are started forthwith and schemes formulated and sufficient funds provided for the purpose so that these industries may be put on a sound basis.

In this connection, Sir, I should like to refer to another matter which has been referred to by my friend, Dr. Sanyal, and it relates to the Gur Control Order. We have been put to great difficulties due to certain restrictions imposed under the Gur Control Order. Sir, there are persons who produce sugarcane and manufacture their own requirements of *gur* and who do not take white sugar but *gur* only. Such persons can no longer, under the Gur Control Order, manufacture *gur* even for their own consumption. I submit that this should not have been the case. Then, Sir, they are not allowed to have white sugar because sugar is now controlled. Sir, the maximum price that has been fixed for sugarcane is Re. 1 if the sugarcane is delivered at the receiving centres and Rs. 1-2 if it is delivered at the mill gate. But no concession has been made for the transport of sugarcane. Everybody in this House is well aware that the cost of transport has gone up tremendously, and in my own area I have found that one cart-load of sugarcane cannot be brought to the buying centre or the railway station for less than Rs. 10 or Rs. 12, that is, the cultivator must pay ten or twelve annas for one maund of sugarcane. Sir, this transport question ought to have been considered at the time when the Gur Control Order was passed. Then, Sir, due to cattle epidemic the number of carts have dwindled down as a result of which the cultivators who want to bring their sugarcane to the

mill gates or to the receiving centres are experiencing the greatest difficulty. Moreover, Sir, the price fixed for sugarcane is not at all commensurate with the price of *gur* and every cultivator is consequently suffering a great loss.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, the Advocate-General of the Government Party, refused to accept the suggestion of the Opposition, we expected, Sir, that we should be getting the benefit of his deceptive reasonableness in course of the present discussion. But since he has ordained otherwise by not standing up to say anything, either by way of refutation of the arguments advanced from this side of the House or in reply to the facts stated, we are left to making our own observations *ex-parte*.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, this appeal requires some answer from me and I hope you will give me a chance. We want one-tenth of the time given to the Opposition and even then we shall be able to teach them.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: I hope you will deduct the time that has been wasted by Mr. Siddiqi from the time to be allotted to him.

Sir, I propose to confine myself to only one aspect of the matter. Dr. Sanyal has discussed the question of silk and, Sir, it is no exaggeration to say that silk is a very badly handled industry of this province and Government has never taken it up as a serious question of its own. You know, Sir, that during the depression of the world market in 1928 when tea and silk were equally affected, since tea was a vast European interest, Government pulled it up by its own patronage and subsidy, but silk was all along left to eke out its own existence. When the present war introduced the silver lining into this otherwise dark horizon, the recent control order has practically served as a chain round the undefended neck of the silk spinners and weavers. The Silk Controller of Murshidabad and Birbhum has by a notification under the Defence of India Rules forbidden the purchase of cocoons except by a permit of no party other than the reeling factories which are engaged for war purposes in the manufacture of parachutes and the like and as a result of this order affecting the normal structure of the silk trade in the two districts of Murshidabad and Birbhum, about 5,000 silk spinners who produced silk yarn on the *charkha* have been thrown out along with at least four times as many persons who did various jobs in connection with such spinning. Besides there are those who live exclusively upon the textile manufacture from silk yarns spun out of the *charkha* who have also been thrown out of their occupation. And they have no secondary subsistence to fall back upon and today, Sir, on account of this indiscriminate and thoughtless order they are dying in hundreds by inches. If war has to absorb some cocoon, I submit a quota ought to be fixed for that; the residue should be left for the open and free market so that the normal channels of trade and industry may operate to the benefit of these people.

Sir, you know that even in this controlling matter the entire business and its prospects have been stifled on account of the fact that the matter is thoroughly department-ridden. I have seen spinners and weavers and silk merchants. They are primarily interested in the welfare of this particular branch, but their fates are to be decided and determined by officers whose only qualification is that they draw fat salaries and very fat travelling

allowances. Sir, dishonesty is rampant in the department and even when the Controller passes orders for releasing yarns, the underlings of the department, the officers of the lower grade, never carry into effect these orders unless they are paid something. This is having not only a discouraging but also a thoroughly demoralising effect upon the whole industry as such, and I expect the Hon'ble Minister in charge to rise up to the matter to look up the question not only in relation to its present-day problem but also to future prospects so that a large number of people who ought to have earned a boom during wartime and who on account of this indiscriminate and thoughtless order are practically being strangulated may be saved. This will not only save a big and useful community from starvation but will also place the industry, which was once a glorious industry, on a road to fair prospect in the world of post-war reconstruction. With this observation, I support Dr. Sanyal's motion.

Mr. R. A. H. STEVENSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not wish to take up time this morning to a greater extent than is necessary, but the matter upon which I have certain observations to make, is one which affects directly the lives and well being of more than 2 lakhs of people in this province and will, I hope, ultimately increase the prosperity and the purchasing power of many hundreds of thousands more agriculturists.

My subject is that of assistance to the handloom weaving industry of Bengal. Of all the cottage industries, it is recognised that weaving is the largest in normal times, but so dire are the straits in which the weavers have found themselves during recent years that it is feared that the cessation of hostilities and the ultimate return of the province to normality, may find that this industry has become so moribund that it will not be possible to revive it at all.

I have recently made a study of a very comprehensive report on a survey of cottage industries in Bengal, which was carried out and published a few years ago. In this very illuminating work are precise details of the various cottage industries which are carried on throughout the districts, and pride of place is given to handloom weaving, as being the most widely practised and important of these various handicrafts.

Even at the time this report was compiled there were many definite signs that the handloom weaving industry, in particular, of these crafts, was in extreme danger of total extinction.

The low prices of *machine-made cloth* were, of course, the chief reason for the ever-diminishing output of *hand-woven cloth* and more and more weavers were finding it impossible to eke a living out of the reward of their efforts, after the *mahajan* or middleman had had his share of the profits and his interest on the loans which he had made to the weaver to enable him to purchase raw materials.

During more recent times the abnormally high prices of raw materials have taxed the purchasing powers of the weavers almost to extinction, and it is gratifying to note that some slight relief has been granted to the weavers by the applicatoin of the Cotton Yarn Control Orders, which have enabled raw materials to be purchased again at a more reasonable price

These weavers, Tantis, Jugis and Jolas, are craftsmen possessing a very high degree of skill which has been handed down from father to son for many generations. But unless some assistance is given, and given soon, to these men they will be forced by economic conditions to forsake this means of livelihood and find others by which they can earn a living. The result of this is only too obvious. The art of hand weaving—and an art it is too in the true sense of the word—will be lost to this province and all chance of the resuscitation of this, the largest of Bengal's cottage crafts, will have gone for good and all; but not, as I am sure all thinking men will agree with me, for the good of the province. It is not my suggestion that only the relatively small number of people actively now engaged in hand weaving should receive assistance and encouragement to practise their crafts, but rather that every effort be made to make this handicraft sufficiently attractive so as to encourage agriculturists in general to adopt this additional form of livelihood, and practise it during the slack seasons in the farmer's year.

By assistance and encouragement, I do not mean purely financial aid, as from what I have heard and seen of the budget estimates this, in its simple form of subsidies, etc., could not be forthcoming.

A scheme could, I believe, be formulated whereby the Department of Industries would engage and allot to this work a small staff to undertake the furtherance of this handicraft. I know that the first reaction to such a suggestion is bound to be "But where is the money to come from"? and in reply to this, I can state that I am sure that an organisation which would not cost the province even Rs. 1,000 annually, can be formed—and should be formed as soon as possible. Its income would be derived from small profits derived from the marketing of the handloom products, sufficient only to pay the salaries and expenses of the organisation.

Its functions would be—

(1) To make advances where necessary for the purchase of raw materials and equipment, without any interest charges being levied.

(2) To give technical advice and assistance with a view to improvement of designs and the finished product and methods of production.

(3) To make arrangements whereby the cloth when manufactured should be marketed as advantageously as possible.

(4) To carry on propaganda to interest cultivators other than actual weaver castes in the manufacture of cloth during slack periods.

It may well be that Government are already considering the pros and cons of some such undertaking to assist the handloom weaving industry. I hope they are.

It is certainly true to say that in 1941 the sum of Rs. 2,26,200 was earmarked and voted for expenditure on a scheme to improve the ability of the artisans, craftsmen and small producers in cottage industries to hold their own in a competitive market by providing them with the means to produce better and sell better. I quote these words from a speech on industry by the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan in this House during the

10th session of 1941. In a rejoinder, Mr. J. R. Walker of this Group expressed the view that although an expenditure of Rs. 2,26,000 seemed to him a very expensive way of getting the weavers and brass workers out of the hands of the *mahajans* he was in favour of the adoption of some such measures to alleviate the position. The scheme included the establishment of two sale and supply depots for handloom weaving products.

In my opinion, this was a step in the right direction. But what I should like to know now is, were any such steps taken? And if they were, what were the results? Unfortunately, no further information has been forthcoming to date, and the last bulletin on the handloom cotton weaving industry in Bengal to be published is dated 1941 and makes no reference to the establishment of these depots, or the success or failure of the scheme as then formulated.

I know, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that I am not the first member of this House to speak on this subject, but I feel strongly that Government should let us have as early as possible an idea of the measures which they intend to adopt to alleviate the utterly unsatisfactory condition into which through neglect the handloom weaving industry this province has been allowed to sink.

The patient, if we may regard this industry as such, is in urgent need of medical attention, and it is essential that the necessary treatment should be applied as soon as possible, or the consequences may well be the demise of the industry. (Applause.)

Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QUADIR: Sir, the previous speakers have spoken about the handloom industries and the development of cottage industries in detail and I think it is needless for me to repeat those things again. I would simply touch one or two points.

As regards difficulties in getting yarn at moderate price by the weavers Government propose to control the prices. This is welcome, but I am sure the vendor will not sell it at controlled rates. For instance, paper price has been controlled and the lowest price fixed is five annas six pies per quire, but it is not available in the market unless more than double of that price is paid. I, therefore, suggest that in every district or subdivisional headquarters where there are large number of weavers a sale and supply depot should be started direct under Government control, so that thousands of weavers may get yarns at controlled rates and thus earn their means of livelihood by manufacturing cloth. Take the instance of Madras and see how the handloom products have overflooded the market of Bengal. Why should not Bengal be up and doing to replace Madras by local products? The difficulties should be investigated and solved and facilities should be given to the weavers of Bengal. The Director of Industries in 1941-42 evolved the scheme and provided money in the budget to make experiments in three or four places but it was stopped. On the other hand, a new Fishery Department was opened which proved a failure many times in the past. Instead of this waste of money Government could provide for a scheme for the development of handloom industry.

Production of cotton is indispensable for the development of handloom industry like cocoons. Formerly it was managed by the Agriculture Department and now it is managed by the Director of Industries. Like

sericulture cultivation of long staple cotton should be brought under the management of the Director of Industries. Ninety-nine per cent. of cotton cloth is being used by the people, but nothing is being done by the Government for the cultivation of long staple cotton. I, therefore, urge Government to make arrangement for the production of cotton in Bengal. If cheap yarn can be made available to the weavers of Bengal, then that will facilitate them very greatly and nothing in this world would be able to stand in competition with the cheap Bengal cotton. We have got all sorts of climatic conditions suitable for the production of cotton. So if we try we can produce the finest cotton in Bengal. This is not a new thing. Bengal used to produce in old days the finest cotton of the world. It is only the revival of the old that is necessary and for that every attempt should be made. But what is Government doing in this direction? No attempt is being made by them for the development of long staple cotton. This is a very important thing and I, therefore, urge Government strongly to see that this matter, namely, cultivation of long staple cotton is taken up by the Industries Department as has been done in the case of sericulture.

As regards pottery from my personal experience I can say that the training of students on this subject has been a total failure. The officers deputed for the purpose of training proved to be quite incompetent and without any business knowledge. Unless Government appoint suitable experts and put pottery on a commercial basis it will be a mere waste of money.

As regards training of students and weavers in artisan classes in Government technical schools, I must say that this is a very important thing. The students should get full training at least for two years, and, if possible, for three years, so that when they come out of the schools, they will be able to produce such fine cloth as can compete with the world market. They should work somewhere as apprentices.

Then, Sir, handloom industry is being hampered because of the fact that part of the work is being done by the Co-operative Department and part by the Industries Department. This anomaly should be done away with and the work should be conducted under the control of one department.

Mr. SUKUMAR DUTTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not my intention to take much time of the House. I shall confine my speech only to making a few suggestions about the handloom industry, the organisation and development of which are the crying needs of the province. It is very heartening, Sir, to know that many members of the House are taking interest in the subject and especially, Sir, that the European members are taking some interest in this indigenous industry.

Sir, from the year 1937 I have been trying to draw the attention of Government to this matter and many Ministers have come and gone but very little has yet been done in this direction. I want to point out that in this matter the initiative has got to be taken by the Industries Department. Unfortunately, Sir, the handloom industry is placed in the hands of two other departments, namely, the Co-operative Department and the Civil Supplies Department. The weaving is done mainly through the Co-operative Department and supply and control of yarn by the Civil

Supplies Department. As far as my knowledge goes, there is very little co-ordination between these three departments. Moreover, the two other departments cannot take the same interest as the Industries Department. Specially, Sir, the Civil Supplies Department has got at present so much work to do in other respects that it is not possible for that department to get interested in this matter. There is a Bengali proverb "ভাগের মা গঙ্গা পায় না।" and for the handloom industries the same thing has taken place. No department takes any real interest in this matter.

Sir, it is a pity that while handloom industry is being daily developed in other provinces like Madras and Bombay, in Bengal not much has been done by any of the departments concerned.

Sir, it must be remembered that Bengal is a deficit province as regards cloth, and at the present moment due to the difficulty of transport not much cloth is coming from Bombay and Ahmedabad and also the cloth that is still in Calcutta cannot be distributed in the mufassal. The only solution, Sir, to this problem is the development of the handloom industry which will be able to feed the mufassal and Calcutta consumers and as we all know, Sir, in Bengal the handlooms are producing as much cloth as the Bengal mills. This fact is not known to many persons. Even under great difficulty and disadvantages the handlooms are producing the same amount of cloth as the Bengal mills, and I think it is possible to double the output of the handlooms if only proper organisation is done by Government.

Sir, I do not want to take any more time of the House. In concluding I only wish to repeat the suggestions that I made in my previous speech, namely, that a conference should be immediately convened with the Ministers of the three departments—the Co-operative, Industries and Civil Supplies—and the M.L.As. from the handloom districts to formulate a scheme for the development of the handloom industry and an autonomous body started with adequate funds to put the scheme into action.

The Minister in charge of the Co-operative Department did not even care to reply to my suggestion. I only hope that the Minister in charge of the Industries Department will at least care to reply to my question.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, শিল্প সম্বন্ধে বলতে গেলে প্রথমে মনে পড়ে ১৭৫৭ সালের কথা। এই বাংলা দেশ যখন স্বাধীন ছিল তখন এদেশ কৃষি, শিল্প এবং বাণিজ্য বিষয়ে উন্নতি লাভ করেছিল। শিল্প এবং বাণিজ্য ছাড়া কোন দেশ উন্নতি লাভ করিতে পারে নাই। আমাদের বাংলা দেশ কাপড়-শিল্পে অতি উন্নত হয়েছিল। উদাহারণস্বরূপ বলা যায় কিশোরগঞ্জের তঞ্জাব, সান্দিকোণার এণ্ডি ও ঢাকার মসলিন কাপড়ের কথা। এসব কাপড় ইতিহাস-প্রসিদ্ধ। এতদ্দ্বারা বোঝা যায় বাংলা দেশে শিল্পের যথেষ্ট উন্নতি হয়েছিল। ১৭৫৭ সালে পলাশীর ঘাটে বাংলা, বিহার, উড়িষ্যার স্বাধীনতার নৌকা ডুবে গেল। সঙ্গে সঙ্গে বাংলার কৃষি, বাণিজ্য-শিল্প ডুবে গেল। বর্ত্তমান মেরুদণ্ডহীন মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী এ বিষয়ে সুচারু সমাধান করবেন না জানি। তবুও জনসাধারণের পক্ষ থেকে বলছি শিল্প-বাণিজ্যের উন্নতি না হলে দেশের উন্নতি হবে না। বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী তাঁরা মন্ত্রিত্ব করছেন না। তাঁরা স্বেতাঙ্গ, আই, সি, এস সেক্রেটারীদের কেবল কেরাণীগিরি করছেন। তাঁরা যেভাবে চালাবেন সেই ভাবেই চলবেন, বাস্তবিক পক্ষে জাতির উন্নতির জন্য কিছু করবেন না। যদি করতেন তবে শিল্প বিভাগের ব্যয়-বরাদ্দ এত কম হত না।

Babu RADHANATH DAS: Sir, as the time at my disposal is very short, I shall try my level best to limit my speech as far as I can. Most of the members of this House have drawn attention to several industries such as spinning and weaving of cotton and woollen goods and silk goods, fisheries and other industries. But nobody in this House has drawn the attention of Government so far as tanning, boot and shoe-making and the making of other leather goods industries are concerned. With regard to these industries, I want to draw the attention of Government to the very pitiable condition of the people of this province who carry on these trades for their living. In the report of Government for the year 1941-42, it has been made quite evident that there is only one institution in Calcutta so far as tanning is concerned and there is only one institution so far as the making of boot and shoe industry is concerned. If you, Sir, look at the number of students undergoing training in these subjects, you will be able to understand, Sir, how far the Government are callous and indifferent so far as the teaching of these industries to the people of this province is concerned. There are only 27 students in the tanning institution and 23 students in the boot and shoe-making institution. Of these 27 students who are taking lessons in tanning, 7 are from outside Bengal and only 20 belong to Bengal. So far as the boot and shoe-making institution is concerned, out of 23 students 21 come from Bengal. If we take the number of people who carry on these trades and their dependants in Bengal, I should say that it would be not less than 12 lakhs and we have only one institution for tanning and only one institution for boot and shoe-making to cater to the needs of so many lakhs of people. So, I would request the Hon'ble Minister concerned to pay particular attention to this aspect of the matter and to see that the industries are developed to some extent at least in the interests of people who are naturally concerned in them.

Dr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: I rise only to ask one question. I want to know whether the Government would consider the desirability of withdrawing bans from the branches of the All-India Spinners' Association which are absolutely necessary in view of the scarcity of cloth?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to speak only a few words in reply to the observations which have been made regarding the fishery industry. We are fully aware that the department is practically starved and hopelessly inadequately staffed.

The department was re-established in 1941. As soon as we took up office we began to enquire whether the department could be developed. We came to know that it was the decision of the last Cabinet during the time of the last Ministry that no new scheme which was not in connection with direct war effort would be budgeted for. That stood in the way of the development of the Department of Fisheries. So the development of the department was not previously considered. Now we have taken up the position that fish is an important food of the country and in view of the presence of a large military force in this province, the fish situation has become so acute that it has become absolutely necessary, that fish production should be increased. In that view of the case we have decided and asked the Director of Fisheries to submit schemes so that the department may be

strengthened and the production of fish increased, within a reasonable time. (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: It will end in scheming.) Without scheming nothing can be done. A scheme has got to be prepared and it has to be passed by the Finance Department and by the Cabinet. Everybody knows it and Mr. Walker knows it best of all.

As regards the complaint made about posts being earmarked for the Muslim community, we had to make an honest attempt. In several cases we have tried and where we failed to get suitable Muslim candidates we have decided to take candidates from other communities. In the Fisheries Department we have taken people from other communities and appointed them to posts reserved for Muslims. It is not a fact that the technical posts in the Fisheries Department have been allowed to remain vacant in order to satisfy the demand of the Muslim community.

I accept the valuable suggestions which Mr. Walker has made, for the development and increased production of fish in Bengal. It will be my duty to see that those suggestions are considered thoroughly. I would ask the Director of Fisheries whether any scheme on those lines could not be prepared and, if so, to come up with proposals.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May we be enlightened on this point? Are we to understand that the Directorate of Fisheries was constituted without having any scheme? I understand that there is a scheme which has been under operation.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: There was no scheme for the production of fish as I have already stated. Research alone will not help us. We are short of food at the moment and we must bring in increased supplies of fish.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, the time at my disposal is very short and I shall not be able to do full justice to the various questions that have been raised during this debate. But before coming really to the cut motions I would like to take this opportunity to invite the attention of the House to a misunderstanding that unfortunately exists in the mind of the public with regard to the real scope of the Department of Industries in relation to provincial economy. In the existing state of things the Provincial Department of Industries has to function under so many limitations that the activities of the Government, in spite of the best of intentions of the Officer in charge, cannot embrace all the aspects of the industrial development, with the result that the achievements cannot fully meet the expectations of the people. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Therefore, abolish it.) It is not a question of abolition. It has to be remembered that constitutionally situated as we are at present, tariff, finance and transport are not provincial subjects and therefore provincial industries have got to work under these limitations. It is no use saying abolish, but we have got to work under these disadvantages and limitations. Many of the people—some through ignorance and some, as my friends opposite, deliberately—misrepresent things and make all sorts of allegations and charges against the Industries Department.

Now, Sir, I will——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister in charge has said that some members—and particularly pointing to me—deliberately misrepresent to the House. I would like to know which facts of mine are challenged by him. I say it is no use creating a smoke-screen. My friend knows very well that he is not capable to meet one single charge of mine.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is not strictly speaking any point of order: this is a personal explanation.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I challenge him to prove what misrepresentation there is in my statement. I am not in the habit of following him in this matter. Yesterday also, in regard to a question he replied in similar terms.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I do not think that I should take any notice of what Dr. Sanyal says except as a member of this House and as a member of the Opposition, and I have no inclination of taking any notice of him.

Now, Sir, I will come to the question of handloom industries first. I can say that I agree with many suggestions that have been made in this House and I shall certainly try to see how far we can give effect to those useful suggestions. Sir, as far as the handloom industry is concerned, I admit that very little has been done so far to organise the handloom weavers in a proper manner. There have been many difficulties in the past and the department at times prepared schemes which, owing to the change of Government as well as other difficulties, were not given effect to. Sir, I am not giving out any secret, but I can tell the House that the department has practically prepared a very comprehensive scheme for the improvement and development of handloom industry. Sir, the point is this: one thing has got to be remembered that the main question in the case of a handloom weaver is that we have got to make arrangement for the supply of yarn. The main question in regard to cottage industries is that it is not possible for small industries to arrange for supply of raw materials at economic prices. The main problem is to try and arrange so that we may have depots where the Government can arrange for supply of yarns in large quantities and then distribute them to the weavers at economic and cheap prices. This is one problem, and the scheme deals with that.

The second is marketing of the finished goods. The small weaver, who produces finished goods out of the yarn finds it very difficult unless he can market it immediately and quickly. The scheme also contemplates that. The first question is the supply of yarn and the second is the marketing of finished goods and every other assistance to be given to the weaver. So far as the present position——

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: What about sizing materials?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: All the other advice and assistance to be given to the weaver will be considered, but these are the main points, namely, supply of yarn at a reasonable price and the arrangement for the marketing of finished goods.

Sir, my friend Mr. Gupta has complained that Government have not made any arrangement to relieve the difficulties on account of want of transport. I would like to remind him that these difficulties of transport are due to war conditions and are inevitable at the present moment. If we want to ignore and shut our eyes from the real facts, it is quite a different thing. But in no country, especially our province which is practically next door to the war field, the condition can be normal, and these are the consequent disadvantages of the war conditions, but as far as this department is concerned, whenever any representation is made to the department that any particular industry or any particular individual in carrying out its or his trade is finding any great difficulty either of transport or of anything else, the department takes it up at once in the appropriate section and tries to relieve the situation and represents the matter to the relevant Central authority and tries to do everything possible to relieve the situation.

Now, Sir, as far as the supply of yarn is concerned, under the Central Government's Yarn Control Order there is a Controller of Textile and the Civil Supplies Department is in charge of the supply of yarn at the present moment. The Director of Industries has taken steps to bring the representative weavers in touch with the trade and at the present moment, according to my information, we have not got much complaints about the lack of supply of yarn, but, as I said, we are working under certain disadvantages. Still if any particular case is brought to the notice of the Director of Industries, I am sure he will take all the necessary steps to assist the person. (Mr. SUKUMAR DUTTA: What about the formation of a handloom board which I suggested?) It is not possible for me to give all the details of the scheme, but I will certainly keep in mind the suggestion made by Mr. Dutta and will see if that scheme which he has just mentioned can be usefully introduced.

Sir, as far as the Gur Control Order or the Sugarcane Control Order is concerned, I would like to explain the position at some length. The position is this. We have been accused that we went and promulgated this Gur Control Order and put on the cordon without any consideration of what its effect will be, but very few people realise the situation with which we were confronted. Last year, the total sugar, according to the figures, required for consumption in this province was 140,000 tons and the total production of the province last year was—I am speaking from memory—in the neighbourhood of 16,000 tons. The Sugar Controller for India informed us that in the coming year he was going to allot only 85,000 tons to Bengal and the other 55,000 tons will have to be produced in Bengal for our consumption. That was the situation. It was an impossible proposition. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That was also your creation because your representative was not sufficiently alert at the conference.) I do not think such interruptions need any answer. We were confronted with the situation that for the consumption in Bengal we had to maximise the production of sugar to the extent of 55,000 tons and it was an impossible proposition, but still we had to do something. If later on we were going to ask the Government of India to increase our quota, then we ought to have been in a position to show to the Government of India that as far as Bengal was concerned, we did everything possible to maximise the production of sugar. That was the position we were confronted with.

Then, Sir, the position was that the price of sugar was, as you know, fixed. The mills came and said that on the last year's price they could only pay 10 annas for the sugarcane although this year the price was raised by 13 annas. The mills said that on no account they would be able to pay more than 12 annas for the sugarcane. I do not say that I accepted that absolutely as a correct proposition, but it was pressed by them that they could not pay more than 12 annas. However, that was the position taken up by the mills that they could not pay more than 12 annas. We knew that in view of the economic condition in the province 12 annas per maund of sugarcane was too small for the cultivator and it would be not only a great injustice to the cultivator but that next year the sugarcane cultivation was bound to be adversely affected. That was the reason why Government decided to devise certain means to subsidize the cultivator. It is absolutely wrohg to say that this subsidy was in any way meant for the mills. It was entirely meant and intended for the cultivator. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Indirectly for the mills.) I know that members of the Opposition will go on interpreting all the actions of Government that we do in the interests of the masses as if we are doing them in the interests of the vested interests and they know and the people who are really interested know that we are doing them in the interests of the masses.

Sir, that was the position that we were confronted with. It was thought that something more than 12 annas had got to be given to the sugarcane-growers. We decided, taking various things into consideration, that at least 4 annas more should be given to the cultivator and we came to this arrangement with the mills that they might pay Re 1 for the sugarcane and the difference between 12 annas and Re. 1 would be met out of the provincial finance. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: This is bribe to the mills.) I should ignore it with the contempt it deserves Not only that. It was considered that the price of *gur* was very high and there was shortage of *gur* in the province—that is again due mainly to transport difficulties —and we felt that even Re. 1 was not enough to induce the cultivator to deliver or supply sugarcane to the mills and not manufacture *gur* which would give him a higher price. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: So, the cat is out of the bag.) It is not a question of one year only. After all, we have got to take a long view of everything and I do not think any civilized Government can allow the industry to die so that there is no production of sugar in the province nor anyone with any sense of responsibility can advocate that Government ought to have allowed the total stoppage of the production of sugar in Bengal and not taken any steps. Therefore, Government decided to cordon an area from where cane could be easily supplied to the mills to the full limit of its capacity. Time was very short, as I explained in answer to various questions and I would not go into those details again. Cordons were laid and those people were required to supply cane to the mills and not to any other place.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mills are not required to buy.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: That is a point, Sir, which I answered in reply to another question. There was a definite understanding with the mills that whatever sugarcane was offered either to the

receiving centres or the mill gate the mills will be obliged to buy everything and if they do not they will pay full compensation for the supply that is offered in either of these centres. That was the position, Sir, as far as the sugarcane order is concerned. It was made in the interests of maximization of production of sugar and I am sure that with all its limitations and the short time within which this order was brought in force it has worked fairly well.

Now, Sir, I would refer to the question of silk industry. As far as the criticisms against the Government policy with regard to silk industry are concerned, I think that they are very unfortunate. We can claim that we have done everything possible and the line on which we are now proceeding is the best for the development of the silk industry. As far as the Silk Control Order is concerned, it controls the prices of cocoons and different qualities of silk and gives priority to Government to purchase cocoons and silk both in required quality and quantity and also prohibits extra movement outside the province. The filature silk is required for the manufacture of parachutes, and it is a very high quality silk that is necessary, and because attempts are being made to improve the quality of silk it is going to be a permanent benefit to the silk industry. As regards the defects that there are in the order, I shall very briefly refer to them. Although there is a controlled price for *charka* silk, Government did not undertake to purchase *charka* silk. The result was that there has been a good deal of black marketing. It is just the problem between *charka* silk and filature silk, and I can tell the House that Government have already decided to introduce monopoly purchase of *charka* silk also. That will eliminate the unhealthy competition and black marketing between *charka* silk and filature silk. (A voice from the Opposition Benches: What about the rates?) The rates have not been fixed on a provincial basis. They have been fixed as far as war industries are concerned in competition with the other provinces all over India and I may tell the House that since we have come to office we have raised the price to a very satisfactory level.

I think I have finished. As far as the tanning and shoe-making industry is concerned, I am very glad that a reference has been made. I may inform the honourable members that so far as the students who have passed out of our institutions are concerned, they are well provided in life and are carrying on very well. I admit that it is necessary that we should increase the number of such facilities and instructions in the province. (Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Start schools in the mufassal.) I admit that we ought to do that, but there are all sorts of handicaps. Still we have got to do as far as possible.

I will very briefly refer to the point raised by my friend Mr. Israil that Government aided institutions are not working very satisfactorily and the trainees who come out of those institutions are in many cases not able to earn their livelihood. If I understood him aright, that was the point he made. I am very sorry to hear that, but there is only one thing of which I may inform him. We have got a very small number of inspectors who can go round and inspect these institutions. I promise that we will give all the consideration and care to improve the institutions as well as to add to its number.

One point, Sir, I have finished. General criticism has been made that no appreciable increase has been made in the provision under this head. Sir, there is one thing which I want to remind the House, namely, that over and above the activities of the Industries Department the Director of Industries as the Agent of the Government of India is carrying on a very large amount of industrial work in this province. The House, I am sure, will be glad to know that to the extent of 5 crores rupees orders have been executed in this province. That is a supplementary activity of the Industries Department.

In this connection I would like to tell the House that various industries on the basis of cottage industries are being developed in executing the war supply orders, especially the tanning industry and the hat industry. I think it is most creditable that unlike other provinces instead of carrying out the war supply orders on the factory basis the Director of Industries is trying to carry it on the basis of cottage industries which will be a permanent benefit to the province. So when we are considering the Industries budget during the war we have got to consider also what other activities and expenditure are being made for the improvement and advancement of the industries in question, on the various war supply orders.

With these words, Sir, I beg to oppose all the cut motions. Sir, I have just been reminded that I did not mention anything about the salt manufacture, a point raised by my honourable friend Maulvi Ahmed Ali Mridha. The other day in reply to a cut motion on the supplementary budget I had explained the matter. I do not know whether my honourable friend was here. The Government policy is this: we have received the sanction of the Government of India to manufacture salt even on a commercial basis, provided arrangements are made for warehouses where salt excise duty can be levied. At present my intention is to increase manufacture of salt and put up warehouses throughout the province of Bengal.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Sen that the demand of Rs. 33,83,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Jogesh Chandra Gupta that the demand of Rs. 33,83,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Adwaita Kumar Maji that the demand of Rs. 33,83,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Giasuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs. 33,83,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 33,83,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Sharat Chandra Mukherji that the demand of Rs. 33,83,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Shahabuddin that a sum of Rs. 33,83,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" was then put and agreed to.

43—Industries—Cinchona.

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 13,25,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona".

Sir, I may say that the latter portion of Dr. Bhaumik's cut motion does not come within the scope of the demand now made because the distribution of quinine is a subject which concerns the Public Health Department.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is so. When Dr. Bhaumik moves his motion, he will leave out the words "and maldistribution of quinine".

Dr. GOBINDA CHANDRA BHAUMIK: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 13,25,000 under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about insufficient production of quinine.

Mr. Speaker Sir, আজ কুইনাইনের অভাবে বহু লোক মারা যাচ্ছে। আজ গভর্ণমেণ্ট কুইনাইন শিল্পের উন্নতির কথা বলছেন কিন্তু গত মহাযুদ্ধের পর গভর্ণমেণ্টের ভাল করে জানা উচিৎ ছিল যে যুদ্ধের সময় দেশে কুইনাইনের অভাব পড়বে। যদি পূর্ব্বেই সেই ব্যবস্থা করা যেত তাহলে আজ কুইনাইনের অভাব পড়ত না। জাভা ২৫ বৎসরের মধ্যে সমস্ত পৃথিবীকে কুইনাইন সরবরাহ করেছে। অথচ আজ বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট বাংলা দেশের কুইনাইন সরবরাহ করতে পারেন না। ১৯৩৮ সালে India Government সমস্ত quinineএর ভার নেন এবং তাঁদের হাতে ৫ লক্ষ পাউণ্ড কুইনাইন reserve থাকা সত্ত্বেও quinine এর অভাবে বহুলোক মারা গিয়াছে। যদি যথাসময়ে এই quinine পাওয়া যাইত তাহা হইলে বহু লোকের প্রাণরক্ষা হইত।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 13,25,000 under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the mal-administration of the department and the failure of Government to effect larger production of quinine.

Sir, there are two subjects that I propose to invite the attention of the House to. One is regarding insufficient production of quinine. In reply to a question asked in this House a few days ago, the Hon'ble Minister in charge laid certain figures on the table showing the progress made during the last few years. These figures clearly reveal that in spite of the best efforts made by various sections of this House, the increased production of quinine in this province has been extremely slight and in fact it is not at all commensurate with the requirements of the people. Time will not permit me today to deal with the various aspects of this question, but I feel that one important reason for this failure lies in the monopoly which the Government enjoys in the matter of cinchona plantation and manufacture of quinine. If Government would release private growers of cinchona in sufficient number to produce the cinchona bark, then and then alone can

a quick and a large increase in the cinchona industry be possible. So far as the manufacturing side of it is concerned, the factory at Mungpoo is in my humble opinion capable of handling a much larger supply of bark but it is the supply of bark that is really standing in the way. We have in the Darjeeling district large and useful tracts of land occupied by tea gardens which land could properly be utilised for the production of cinchona plant. It would not be possible perhaps for Government to acquire all such lands and to extend cinchona cultivation on the same, but if Government enter into some kind of arrangement with such tea garden owners that the land which would not ordinarily be suitable for tea production but which would be suitable on the other hand for the production of cinchona plant might be used by these tea gardens for the production of cinchona plant and the bark produced therefrom be taken over by Government on some agreed basis, then probably a larger yield of quinine in this province may be secured in a short time.

The second impediment that lies in the way is the unsympathetic attitude of certain class of officials in the Forest Department towards the Cinchona Department. There had been for years a sort of unhealthy rivalry between the two sections over the plantation side of cinchona production, but ultimately the two sections were separated and yet even now there is this unhealthy rivalry going on in various ways. As a result, Sir, I gave notice of a question a few days ago in reply to which the Hon'ble Minister stated: two senior officers of the cinchona factory at Mungpoo were assaulted by a number of factory hands. It is my information, Sir, that Government did not take adequate measures to bring the offenders to book and did not make any serious attempt to create a permanent peace in the atmosphere prevailing over there because mainly certain interests were involved who were deliberately trying to keep up the differences or to keep up the bad feelings between a section of hill tribes and the Bengali Chemists. As a result of this a serious situation has lately arisen in the factory and the production in the factory has certainly been jeopardised for the time being and is likely to be seriously affected in the near future. I know one very good assistant of that department has already left the service. His name was given out in the reply to my question and he left, as was stated in that reply, because the conditions of the factory did not suit him. I believe that an enquiry should be made to find out if anything is standing in the way of increased production of quinine as a result of these differences.

Mr. C. P. MACPHERSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in pre-war days supplies of quinine in India, coming as they did mainly from Java, were plentiful, and during budget sessions the subject-heading "Cinchona" attracted but little interest. With, however, that source for the meantime closed to us and Bengal perforce now the main source of supplies, the seriousness of the situation makes the subject one of grave importance, and, if I may with all due respect to the Chair say, worthy of a longer time for debate than the meagre half an hour allowed today. India, and Bengal in particular with its many malarial tracts, is very short of this most necessary drug.

As a Government monopoly it might furnish an opportunity for me perhaps to join those who seek solution of problems in recrimination, but,

though for many years Government's policy, with the exception of its recent belated, though commendable, extension of the area planted in cinchona cannot be but deplored, no useful purpose can be attained by pursuing such a course. Let us rather, Sir, express our fears and apprehension for the present and for the immediate future, and ask the Government of the day for full assurance that they at least are taking strenuous steps to make the best of what must be accepted as an unsatisfactory position. The blame for this unsatisfactory state of affairs is not theirs, but my party feels (and I am sure it is a feeling others must share with us) that they must tackle the problem of quinine supplies with all earnestness and energy, and ensure that every available ounce of quinine is produced from the factory at Mungpoo in conjunction with the plantations in Northern Bengal.

Malaria is on the increase and with the exception of certain private enterprises who have done commendable work in this direction, sustained efforts at anti-malarial measures in the province, approaching the standard I saw in Malaya some years ago, would seem to be conspicuous by their absence. Thus, through circumstance India has now to rely on cure instead of enjoying prevention, and that cure must mainly be effected through the use of cinchona products. Bengal as chief supplier and one of the main consumers has a duty to perform which cannot be treated lightly. With Ceylon barring the export of cinchona bark this situation has been further aggravated, and, though hard words have been used in protest against this bar, Ceylon with its own problem of shortage cannot be altogether blamed. The solution of Bengal's problem must lie with Bengal through the medium of the ways and means in its own possession of valuable cinchona properties. It is, Sir, therefore obvious that the subject of Government's plantations; the administration of the factory at Mungpoo; and the subsequent distribution where malaria is most rife, not only to hospitals and dispensaries, but to the public at reasonable prices and improved supply are all matters of paramount importance and urgency.

According to the reply to a question by my honourable friend, Mr. J. R. Walker, on the 17th February, the production of quinine in this province rose from roughly 58,000 lbs. in 1942 to approximately 69,000 lbs. in 1943. It is stated that Government's scheme of expansion of quinine production has as its target an outturn of 100,000 lbs. per annum within 12 years by gradual extension of the plantations and expansion of the production capacity of the factory. As, however, Bengal alone consumes in the vicinity of 90,000 lbs. annually it will be seen how inadequate the present production is, and no matter how commendable its long-term scheme may appear, it must be apparent to all that means must be devised immediately to increase outturn for 1944.

Taking monthly production figures into account, these, Sir, do not appear to be satisfactory, and it is our opinion that the Hon'ble Minister's replies to supplementary questions made last month in this connection do not altogether explain their wide fluctuations. For example, production fell from 5,350 lbs. in January, 1943, to 3,985 lbs. in February; 3,488 lbs. in March; and 3,574 lbs. in April. It then rose to 6,632 lbs. in May and still further to 8,054 in July but again fell away to 5,729 lbs. in September. We feel, Sir, that these fluctuations have some other explanation than one

of natural seasonal reasons, and we think that the Hon'ble Minister should take the House into his confidence in this respect.

Unfortunately rumours are circulating freely that all is not well. We hear of labour trouble at the factory. If this is correct, we would like to know what steps are being taken to rectify the trouble. We must ask why a Government concern cannot successfully employ a type of labour which is found satisfactory in private enterprise in the same district. If the personnel is at fault, we suggest that a change in the personnel be made: if on the other hand work conditions are at fault, these should be made the focus of an immediate enquiry and settlement. With dissatisfied labour outturn must be adversely affected.

Rumours also reach us that the factory is not working to full capacity due to an over-cautious policy of bark-stripping being adhered to at the plantations. As a practical planter I can sympathise with the officers responsible for this well-intended policy and their desire to avoid deterioration of their charge by over-cropping, but we feel, Sir, that such fears must be discarded in the face of necessity caused by the existing shortage of quinine and the alarming increase of malaria in the province. That a stepping up of production at once by all means known to the departmental experts, even to the verge of over-cropping, as steps to meet the present emergency, is a matter worthy of early consideration is the opinion of my party, and in his reply it is hoped that the Hon'ble Minister will give the House assurance that his attention will be diverted towards the betterment of the supply of quinine in the province.

An allied subject on which I wish to touch in conclusion is in relation to that valuable plant, *Ipecacuanha*, from which Emetine is produced. We understand, Sir, that Mungpoo is the only place in India where this medicinal herb is grown to any extent, and in view of its value as a curative medium in cases of dysentery, a disease common in this province, we would like to see some active interest taken by this department in the extension of the cultivation of the plant to a greater extent than at present, so that at an early date production of this drug also may become an asset and a profitable produce of the province of Bengal.

Sir, with these few practical suggestions, which I recommend to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Cinchona Department, I resume my seat.

Sir HARI SANKAR PAUL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are aware of the fact that malaria is a preventible disease with an adequate dosage of quinine. But a serious situation has arisen in the province because of an acute shortage in the supply of quinine. This is the cumulative effect of inadequate home production, stoppage of imports and a very severe rationing of the supply of quinine manufactured at the Government Cinchona Factory at Mungpoo. The result is that the people are getting only a negligible fraction of their requirements. Unless the Government can arrange for adequate relief at this crisis in the history of the province they will be lamentably failing in one of their primary obligations to the suffering public. An idea about the extreme inadequacy in the supply of quinine can be formed from the fact that in 1942 the Government distributed through District Collectors only 5,000 lbs. of quinine for the public. The quantities of their distribution in scanty doles in 1943 have totally been inadequate in view of widespread nature of the disease in Bengal

and this will be admitted by all. The information elicited from the Hon'ble Minister of Forest and Excise the other day regarding the production of the cinchona bark and actual output of quinine from it in 1941-42 and 1943 at the Cinchona Factory at Mungpoo may appear somewhat inviting and Government scheme of expanding quinine production to reach an outturn of 100,000 lbs. per annum in their factories at Mungpoo and Munsong is appreciated but have these figures on paper been able to extend the maximum relief to the dying and suffering masses? The people want actual doses of cinchona products and no jugglery of figures. The primary duty of the Government should, therefore, have been to secure release of a larger quota for Bengal from the Central Government reserve stock of quinine. I do not deny the importance of regulating the supply and distribution of quinine at a time when imports on a normal scale cannot be expected. But we were however told by the Government that there were enough supplies of quinine in India representing at least 2½ years' normal consumption. In view of such a stock position, it is reasonable to expect larger supply for Bengal from the Government of India. Humanity demands such a course of action. I am not aware what steps the Government of Bengal have taken in securing larger releases for civilian people of the province. If so, will they tell the House the results thereof? I would say a few words about the rationing scheme in respect of quinine distribution by the Government. We are told that allotments are made to each district and to Calcutta in proportion to the local incidence of malaria and that the first preference in each area is to be given to hospitals and public dispensaries for free issue to poor patients. It has been officially stated that supply should henceforth be available at all hospitals, public dispensaries and retail distribution centres. But if we are to judge by results, supply even now seems to be very, very inadequate. The crying need of the hour is more quinine. Nor has the selection of retail distributors been made in a judicious manner. The distributive machinery is far from satisfactory and requires overhauling according to the needs and special circumstances obtaining in the province. As far back as March, 1943, we were told that the United States of America would be giving India quinine to the extent of 80,000 lbs. It was expected then that this quantity when received would be distributed among the people and would thereby relieve the country of the scarcity of quinine. I am not aware whether this entire quantity has arrived in India. Even if it has, the position has not improved in the least, rather it has further deteriorated.

In the next place, I would refer to an aspect of the problem of import of this vital commodity. It is a matter of great surprise that while Government are allowing imports of finished consumers' goods on a liberal scale, as a measure of anti-inflation, the list of essential commodities to which priority has been given does not include quinine which should be given a higher priority and that His Majesty's Government be requested to arrange larger supply for India. The shipping position is now easier. Shipping difficulty should, therefore, provide no obstacle for import of quinine. Even now steps should be taken for supplementing the available supply of quinine in India by making arrangements, through the help of International Organisations like the Red Cross Society, for the importation of sufficient quantities of quinine from Java.

I will just touch on the unreasonable prices of cinchona products produced by the Government. An average sample of Cinchona Ledgerina Bark gives an yield of 8·5 per cent. total alkaloids. Of this 5·5 per cent. was found to be quinine base. The yield of quinine sulphate from this was 7·3 per cent. Taking the price of a pound of cinchona bark to be eight annas and the selling prices of quinine sulphate and cinchona febrifuge to be Rs. 18 and Rs. 14 respectively per pound (the pre-war selling prices of these Government products) the gross margin of profit is found to be 200 per cent. or more. The manufacturing cost cannot be more than 25 per cent. and taking other expenses to be about another 25 per cent. the price in normal times even could have been reduced by 50 per cent. of the then selling prices. What was true in pre-war times is true even now for the enhancement in the present cost of production cannot be more than 25 per cent. of the pre-war cost of production and as such even today the present selling prices of quinine may be reduced by 50 per cent. (to Rs. 20, say, from Rs. 37) leaving more or less the same margin of profit for Government as in pre-war days. It is not understood why in this poor country the Government should have gone in for such unwarranted profit in quinine transactions.

Lastly, I would say a few words as to how home production of quinine sulphate can be increased. The fall of the Netherlands East Indies two years before should have put the Government on their guard. They should have foreseen this acute shortage of quinine and taken steps for enhancing indigenous production. Under the Russian method quinine can be had from cinchona plants within a brief period of 2 to 2½ years. The just thing for the Government should, therefore, have been either for themselves to start cultivation of cinchona plants under the Russian method or allow private enterprise to come into the field. But the department sat tight on the matter. Neither they moved in the matter in right earnest nor allowed private parties to grow cinchona. If one of the courses suggested above were taken by the Government on the fall of Dutch East Indies into Japanese hands, we would have by this time a cheery prospect of a larger home production of quinine, which must have encouraged Government of India to release larger quantities out of their reserve stocks. But instead we find a pitiful picture. It is a regrettable fact that Government could not find suitable land that could be spared, in course of two years. It is not understood why suitable land could not be spared for this urgent and humanitarian purpose. Time has however come when bold and drastic steps should be taken for a complete reorientation of the policy of the Government regarding cinchona cultivation in the province. The situation brooks no delay. The Government should, therefore, lay before the House their clear-cut policy in respect of home production.

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, within the short time at my disposal it will not be possible for me to give reply to all the points that have been raised. From 1939 up till now we have extended the cultivation of cinchona by 1,943 acres. As I had stated in reply to a question, from the normal production of quinine, namely, 45 thousand to 50 thousand pounds per annum we have increased it to about

70 thousand pounds. The productive capacity of the factory has now been increased by 30 per cent. so that the factories can now handle up to 20 lakh pounds of bark per annum, whereas formerly they used to handle 15 lakhs of pounds per annum.

Sir, with regard to fluctuation in production I want to say that this industry is not like other industries. Here plants will have to be harvested, barks will have to be collected and dried and some other factors will also have to be taken into consideration.

As regards expansion of cultivation for *Ipecacuanha*, I may say that Government have already taken up this matter and it has been extended since 1941. The progress made is as follows:—

As regards extension in 1941 the programme was 700 compartments and the actual was 754 compartments. In 1942 the programme was 1,000 compartments and the actual was 2,214 compartments. In 1943 the programme of extension was 1,000 compartments and the actual was 1,250 compartments. In this way in 1941 the expected harvest according to programme was 500 lbs. and the actual harvest was 615 lbs. In 1942 we expected 700 lbs. harvest, but the actual harvest was 841 lbs. In 1943 the programme was 500 lbs. and the actual harvest was 768 lbs.

Sir, the above figures show that we are not neglecting this side of the industry and are doing as far possible in this direction.

With these few words, Sir, I oppose all the cut motions moved.

The motion of Dr Gobinda Chandra Bhowmik that the demand of Rs. 13,25,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 13,25,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Premhari Barma that a sum of Rs. 13,25,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" was then put and agreed to.

Point of Privilege.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: On a question of privilege, Sir. With great regret I am referring to an incident which interfered very seriously with the privilege of a member of this House and for that incident one member of the Opposition was responsible. Sir, yesterday one member belonging to the Government side was prevented from coming to this House and was kept under strict guard into the House of another member of the Opposition. [Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: তারক মুখুজ্যে ও দেবেন দাসের কথা বলছ ত? (laughter).] When I will disclose the facts of the incident you will see, Sir, that the members showed greatest shame about this incident and I thought that Dr. Sanyal, the Chief Whip of the Congress Parliamentary Party, should have patience to listen to this serious matter, but the manner in which he is treating this matter, a question of privilege, shows that perhaps the fact is within his knowledge. This is a letter which has been addressed to the Leader of the Bengal Coalition Party by a

member of that party and the member is Mr. Md. Mohsin Ali. The letter runs thus: "Sir, yesterday while I was passing along Harrison Road I was taken over in a motor car by Mr. Mia Abdul Hafiz and taken to the place of the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca where I was kept under a strict guard and so I could not participate in the Assembly voting yesterday". Sir, can you think of any incident more condemnable than this? (Mr. ABDULLA-AL-MAHMOOD: Shame, shame.) I expected that when I said this, the Opposition would listen to this incident with regret and they will express their sense of shame at least, but I find that they are not at all ashamed of this. Sir, I pity them as they did it in desperation. I move that in accordance with the traditions of this House this will be referred to the Committee of Privileges.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I want to submit to you our view regarding this allegation. I have got fullest sympathy with the demand for an enquiry. (Uproar.) The Whip of the Government has invited our views on this matter and I say——(Uproar.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. Dr. Sanyal, will you resume your seat? It has been stated in this House as a matter of privilege. I must tell you in this connection that I have often heard of privileges of members of this House, but up till now I have not been able to understand what the privileges of a member of this House are. In fact, under the Constitution Act, a Privilege Act could have been passed by this House and I think some steps towards it were taken, but the matter stopped there. Government after Government have come and gone, yet nobody has taken the trouble of getting that Bill passed. I, myself, have not got a very clear idea about what the privileges of members of this House are. Here if the allegation is proved to be correct, it becomes a criminal offence (Uproar.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Let them go to the Court.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL-MAHMOOD: The ex-Chief Minister was insinuating yesterday upon the members of this House——(Uproar.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. It is a serious offence and it is an affair which, if correct, reflects, to use the mildest expression, no credit upon any body. I have been asked to refer this to the Privilege Committee. As I have already said——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, before that we want to make our submission.

Mr. SPEAKER: Not at this stage. Just listen to what I am going to say. I know there is a Privilege Committee. I do not know exactly when it was formed and what function it discharges, but I think there is a Privilege Committee. Before this matter be referred to that Committee I myself want to be sure about the privileges and whether this matter should be referred to the Privilege Committee at all. I will give my decision on Monday next.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 1-30 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Monday, the 20th March, 1944, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 20th March, 1944, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 202 members.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Relief to teachers of secondary schools.

84. Mr. HEM CHANDRA NASKAR: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education Department aware—

(*i*) of the present condition of the teachers of all aided High English and Middle English Schools in the Province; and

(*ii*) that the teachers of these schools are hard hit by the present economic crisis in the Province?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps are being taken by the Government to ameliorate their condition?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

Khan Bahadur SHAH ABDUR RAUF: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any definite scheme before Government to ameliorate the condition of teachers?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: There is a scheme but it has not been finally sanctioned. The Hon'ble Education Minister in his speech during the discussion of the Supplementary Budget has told the House that it would require a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs to give relief to the teachers, but now it appears that that amount will not be sufficient but a sum in the neighbourhood of Rs. 75 lakhs would be necessary. Government will try to provide for that amount.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the Government expect to take a final decision in the matter?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Very soon. It has already been stated by the Hon'ble Minister for Education that the scheme will be implemented by the end of April and, if not by the end of April, a month or so hence.

Khan Bahadur SHAH ABDUR RAUF: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what amount, if any, has been provided in the next year's budget for this purpose?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: The estimates do not include this provision, but after the preparation of the estimates for the present year Government have adopted the scheme.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us some idea as to how they are going to give relief to teachers?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: By giving a substantial dearness allowance to the teachers.

Khan Bahadur FAZLUL QUADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any relief has been given to teachers in the current financial year, 1943-44?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: The scheme as it is proposed is for giving relief to teachers during the year 1944-45.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is also considering the suggestions made on the floor of the House by various members that teachers should be provided with ration at concession rates?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: So far as that question is concerned, it has been said by the Hon'ble Minister for Education that Government have considered it many times but they are not a position now to say definitely that they can do anything in that direction. It is, however, hoped that the matter will still receive the consideration of Government.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the difficulties experienced by Government in the matter of extending relief to teachers in the shape of ration at concession rates?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: The difficulties are various and many.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the primary school teachers are omitted?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of sending a copy of the scheme when prepared to all the members of this House before giving effect to it?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: That I cannot say off-hand.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how much amount is going to be provided for giving relief to primary school teachers?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Supply of ration at concession rates to gazetted officers drawing below Rs.300.

85. Khan Bahadur Maulvi AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state whether members of the Bengal Junior Civil Service and other gazetted officers drawing pay below Rs.300 per month are supplied rations?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be also pleased to state whether any ration is supplied to Special Officers, Debt Settlement Boards, Inspectors of Co-operative Societies and upper grade clerks drawing pay below Rs.300 per month?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the officers referred to in (*a*) experience difficulty for non-receipt of ration or any dearness allowance?

(*f*) If the answer to (*e*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government contemplate to give any relief to these officers?

MINISTER in charge of the FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra Goswami): (*a*) The only gazetted officers entitled to draw rations at concession rates are those who are in receipt of a cash dearness allowance, *i.e.*, officers stationed in Calcutta, Howrah Sadar or Alipore Sadar whose pay does not exceed Rs. 163 per mensem.

(*b*) Our scheme aims at granting within the resources of Government relief where it is most needed.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) They are non-gazetted Government servants.

(*e*) I am aware that these officers have also been hard hit by the rise in the cost of living.

(*f*) No.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: With reference to answer (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us why the officers stationed in the mofussil area whose pay is less than Rs. 163 do not enjoy the same benefit as the officers in Calcutta, Howrah Sadar and Alipore Sadar are getting?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: I want notice.

Khan Bahadur SHAH ABDUR RAUF: With reference to answer (*e*), may I ask the Hon'ble Minister if he is aware that members of this House are also hard hit by the rise in prices?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Circle Officers, Special Officers, etc., are entitled to get ration and dearness allowance, if not, why not?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: I could not say off-hand, but they are hard hit. If the honourable member gives me notice of this question I shall certainly answer.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the employees of public bodies drawing a small salary are also entitled to this benefit?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: In the question itself several grades of public servants are mentioned. The employees of public bodies are also public servants.

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is it a fact that non-gazetted officers who are getting Rs. 300 or less are getting ration at concession rates?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: I think, in some cases they are.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why should there be any distinction among this class of officers?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: According to certain rules, and the rules operate automatically.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the officers belonging to the Junior Civil Service and officers like Special Officers and others are entitled to get dearness allowance and ration at concession rates?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: There are certain rules: I have not got the rules before me. But if under the rules they are entitled to get dearness allowance and other concessions, they will certainly get them.

Mr. SPEAKER: Questions over.

Enquiry into Pending Questions.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: May I draw your attention to the fact that replies to questions have not improved? A suggestion has come to you from Mr. Sibnath Banerjee in jail that in printing questions and answers the date of admission may be printed along with the answer as is done in the Central Assembly?

Mr. SPEAKER: I know this matter has been repeatedly agitated on the floor of the House and I have given you some assurance that I will hold a conference and will give my decision later on. I am enquiring into the matter in order to be able to gather facts but it is not yet complete. I will, however, make a statement on the subject next week and in the meantime I will try to gather facts.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

7—Land Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 34,51,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue".

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, আমাদের কৃষক প্রজা-পার্টির সুযোগ্য মেম্বর মৌলবী অসিমুদ্দিন আহ্‌মেদ সাহেবের নামে যে ছাটাই প্রস্তাবটা অদ্যকার কর্ম্মসূচির লিষ্টিভুক্ত আছে সেটা আপনার অনুমতিক্রমে আমি উত্থাপন করতে চাই।

Mr. SPEAKER: হাঁ, আপনি move করতে পারেন।

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 34,51,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government (*a*) to give effect to the recommendations of the Land Revenue Commission, (*b*) to reduce rents of the tenants hard hit by famine, (*c*) to introduce the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill before the Legislatures.

আমার এই ছাটাই প্রস্তাবটির মর্ম্ম হলো এই যে ফ্লাউড কমিশনের সুপারিশ অনুযায়ী বাংলা দেশের চিরস্থায়ী বন্দোবস্ত বা জমিদারী প্রথা তুলে দেওয়া, দুর্ভিক্ষপ্রপীড়িত প্রজা-সাধারণের খাজনার উচচ হার কমিয়ে দেওয়া এবং চাল্লিনা প্রজাস্বত্ব আইন চিরস্থায়ীভাবে পাশ করার ব্যাপারে বাংলার বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলের অপারগতা, অক্ষমতা (Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: আর কয়টা "তা" অভিধানে আছে?) ও ঔদাসীন্যের বিষয় আলোচনার জন্য আমি এই ছাটাই প্রস্তাবটা পরিষদে উপস্থিত করছি।

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, আমাদের কৃষক-প্রজাপার্টির যে প্রোগ্রাম সে প্রোগ্রামের প্রথম কথাই হলো চিরস্থায়ী বন্দোবস্ত বা জমিদারী প্রথা তুলে দিতে হবে, এবং সেই দাবীর উপরেই আমরা গত নির্ব্বাচনে নির্ব্বাচিত হয়ে এখানে এসেছি। সেই প্রোগ্রাম অনুসারে আমাদের যে দাবী জমিদারী প্রথা তুলে দেবার জন্য আমরা এই পরিষদে জোরের সঙ্গে উপস্থিত করেছিলাম সেই দাবীর উপর প্রথম মন্ত্রিসভা বাধ্য হয়েছিলেন,—চিরস্থায়ী বন্দোবস্ত তুলে দেওয়া সম্ভব ও সঙ্গত হবে কি না তদন্ত কোরে রিপোর্ট দেবার জন্য একটা কমিশন নিযুক্ত করতে, যাকে ফ্লাউড কমিশন বা ভূমি রাজস্ব কমিশন বলা হয়। সেই ফ্লাউড্ কমিশন তদন্ত শেষ করার পর রিপোর্ট দিয়েছিলেন যে জমিদারী প্রথা তুলে দেওয়াই সঙ্গত। এবং তাঁরা আরো বলেছিলেন যে আর্থিক ও অন্যান্য প্রকার অসুবিধার দরুণ গভর্ণমেণ্ট যতদিন পর্য্যন্ত চিরস্থায়ী বন্দোবস্ত বা জমিদারী প্রথা তুলে না দিতে পারছেন ততদিন সাধারণভাবে একটা কৃষি আয়কর ধার্য্য করা যেতে পারে। এবং সেই কর জমিদার ও তালুকদার প্রভৃতির উপরই পড়বে। কৃষকদের আয়ের উপর সে আয়কর ধরা হবে না। এই হলো সেই কমিশনের রিপোর্টের মর্ম্মকথা। আমি বলতে চাই বিগত মন্ত্রিসভা, অর্থাৎ বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিসভার পূর্ব্বে যে প্রোগ্রেসিভ্ মন্ত্রিসভা ছিল, যার প্রধান মন্ত্রী ছিলেন মাননীয় মিঃ এ, কে, ফজলুল হক, সেই মন্ত্রিসভা, কেবিনেট সভায় তদানীন্তন গভর্ণর বর্ত্তমানে মৃত স্যার জন হার্ব্বার্টের সঙ্গে ঝগড়া করেও জমিদারী প্রথা তুলে দেবার জন্য প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করেছিলেন এবং বিগত মার্চ্চ মাসে জমিদারী প্রথা তুলে দেবার সিদ্ধান্ত এখানে মুক্তকণ্ঠে ঘোষণা করেছিলেন এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে এ-কথাও ঘোষণা কোরেছিলেন যে প্রথমে পরীক্ষামূলকভাবে ফরিদপুর জেলায় কার্য্য আরম্ভ করা হবে। বিগত মন্ত্রিসভার সেই উদার কর্ম্মনীতিকে ধামাচাপা দিয়ে তাঁদের সেই আরব্ধ কার্য্যকে কবরস্থ কোরে বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিসভা—অর্থাৎ জমিদার-প্রধান যে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডল আজ বাংলা দেশকে শাসন করছেন—তাঁরা কি নীতি অবলম্বন করেছেন? জমিদারী প্রথা তুলে দেওয়ার কথা মুখাগ্রেও না এনে উল্টো করে কৃষক জনসাধারণের উপর কৃষি আয়কর বসাতে যাচ্ছেন!!

Sir, আমি এখন জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই বিগত মন্ত্রিসভার আমলে খাজনা কমাবার একটা আইনের খসড়া বিল সিলেক্ট কমিটিতে দিয়েছিলেন; সেটাকে এই মন্ত্রিসভা কেন কবর দিয়েছেন? তারপর আমি তাঁদের জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই এই বাংলা দেশে যাঁরা চাল্লিনা প্রজা তাদের নানাবিধ অসুবিধা দূর করার জন্য চাল্লিনা প্রজাস্বত্ব বিলটা এই পরিষদে উপস্থিত কোরে সেটাকে স্থায়ীভাবে আইনে পরিণত করছেন না কেন? এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে আরো জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই চাল্লিনা

প্রজা আইনের আওতা থেকে কলকাতা সহরকে বাদ দিয়েছেন কেন? এই কলকাতার লক্ষ লক্ষ দরিদ্র লোক যাহারা খোলাবাড়ীওয়ালা তাহাদিগকে ঠিকা প্রজা বলা হয়, তাহারা অতিরিক্ত খাজনা বহন করে বাস করা সত্বেও তারা ভিটেমাটিহীন, তাদের মধ্যে কত নিঃসহায় শিশু ও বেওয়া বিধবা আছে, এইসব গরীবের মধ্যে আবার শতকরা ৯৫ জন মুসলমান, তাহাদিগকে এই দুর্দ্দিনে মালিকেরা নোটিশ দিয়া যখন তখন ভিটেছাড়া করে দিতেছে। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই—বর্ত্তমান মুসলীম লীগ মন্ত্রিসভা তাদের জন্য একটা স্থায়ী সুব্যবস্থা করতে রাজি কি না? (Mr. ABDULLA AL MAHMOOD: কেন ব্যবস্থা তো আপনারাই সব করে গেছেন!) আমি সঙ্গে সঙ্গে আপনাদের বলতে চাই—জমিদারী প্রথা তুলে দেবার সিদ্ধান্ত যখন বিগত মন্ত্রিসভা ঘোষণা করেছিলেন তখন ওদিককার (pointing to the treasury benches) বন্ধুরা এবং ইংরেজ সভ্যরা অস্থির হয়ে উঠেছিলেন, কিন্তু আমি জানি—বাংলা দেশের হিন্দু জমিদার যাঁরা তাঁদের শতকরা ৯০ জন জমিদারী প্রথা তুলে দেবার পক্ষপাতী। (Mr. ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: ১৫ গুণ দাম আদায় কোরে নিয়ে তো?) আর লীগের যারা ধুজাধারী মুসলমান জমিদার, নবাব সুবারা তাদের শতকরা ৯৫ জনই জমিদারী প্রথা তুলে দেওয়ার বিরোধী। যখন জমিদারী প্রথা তুলে দেওয়ার কথা গত মন্ত্রিসভা কর্ত্তৃক ঘোষণা করা হয় তখনই উত্তর বঙ্গের জনৈক ধনকুবের নবাব মাননীয় হক সাহেবের দল ছেড়ে লীগ দলে গিয়ে যোগদান করলেন এবং তার ধনভাণ্ডারের দুয়ার খুলে দিয়ে বললে ন্যায্য যত টাকা লাগে নিয়ে যাও, ফজলুল হকের মন্ত্রিসভা ভেঙ্গে দিতেই হবে, যেহেতু সে জমিদারী প্রথা তুলে দিতে চায়। এই-ভাবে টাকা খরচ করার ফলে যেখানে লীগের মাত্র ৪০ জন মেম্বর ছিলো রাতারাতি সেখানে ৭৫ জনে পরিণত হলো। তবুও তারা বিগত মন্ত্রিসভাকে ভাঙ্গতে পারে নি। Sir JOHN HERBERT যদি ওঁদের সহায়তা না করতেন এবং হাতি ধরার যে গল্পটা প্রচলিত আছে সেই রকমটা যদি না করা হতো তাহলে সে মন্ত্রিসভাকে ভাঙ্গা সম্ভব হতো না। (Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: গল্পটা কি বলুন) হাতি ধরার গল্পটা হচ্চে এই যে—

Mr. SPEAKER: সে গল্প করতে গেলে সময় নষ্ট হবে।

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: এই গল্পটার সঙ্গে বিষয়ের সম্পর্ক আছে, Sir, এতে আপত্তি করলে বিষয়টা পরিষ্কার হবে না।

Mr. SPEAKER: সে সম্পর্ক থাকাতে আমার কোন আপত্তি নাই, কিন্তু সময় থাকবে না।

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: গল্পটা হচ্চে পাহাড়ে যারা হাতী ধরে থাকে—তাদের কতকগুলি শিক্ষিতা পোষা মাদী হাতী থাকে এবং পাহাড়ে খুব শক্ত কোরে চারিদিকে মস্ত বড় বড় সব কাঠ পুতে এবং তার সঙ্গে আর সব শক্ত জিনিষ দিয়ে মজবুত কোরে অনেকটা জায়গা হাত বেড়া দিয়ে একটা খেঁয়াড় প্রস্তুত করে। তার ভিতর কলা গাছ ইত্যাদি বাগান করে। পরে সেই পোষা মাদী হাতীগুলি জঙ্গলে ছেড়ে দেয়, তারা গিয়ে বড় বড় নর হাতীগুলিকে লোভ দেখিয়ে ঐ খেঁয়াড়ে নিয়ে যায় এবং জংলী হাতির দল খেঁয়াড়ে ঢুকে পড়ামাত্রই দরজা বন্ধ করে দেওয়া হয়। তারপর তারা কিছুদিন সেই গাছপাতা, কলাগাছ খেয়ে কাটাবার পর আর যখন খাওয়ার কিছু থাকে না তখন তারা দুর্ব্বল হয়ে পড়ে। তখন সেই মাদী হাতি-গুলিই জংলী নরগুলিকে শিকল দিয়া এর পায় তার পায় বাঁধিয়া ফেলে, এইভাবে শীকারিরা হাতি ধরে থাকে। এই ভাবের নীতি অনুসরণ করা হয়েছিল বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীসভা গঠনের বেলায়। (hear, hear.) আমি আর একটা বিষয় এখানে বলতে চাই; প্রজা আন্দোলনের ফলে এবং আমাদের এই পরিষদে কৃষক প্রজাপার্টির পক্ষথেকে নিরবচ্ছিন্ন চেষ্টার ফলে, প্রজাদের কিছু উপকার হয়েছে—(A MEMBER কি এমন হয়েছে?) খুব বিশেষ রকমের না হলেও

ছিটে ফোঁটা কিছু কিছু হয়েছে। কিন্তু প্রজাস্বত্ব আইন সংশোধনের ফলে প্রজারা যেসকল স্বত্ব ও সুবিধা পেয়েছে তা থেকেও তারা অনেক জায়গায় যে বঞ্চিত রয়েছে সে কথাটা এখানে আমি না বলে পারছি না। দৃষ্টান্তস্বরূপ বলতে পারি—ত্রিপুরা জেলার সরাইল পরগণার প্রজা-সাধারণ সেই সব স্বত্ব ও সুবিধা ভোগ করতে পারছে না। প্রজাস্বত্ব আইনে প্রজাদের পুকুর ও ইঁদারা খননের, গাছ কাটার অধিকার আছে। কিন্তু সেখানকার প্রজাদের পক্ষে জমিদারের অনমতি না নিয়ে পুকুর খনন করা সম্ভবপর নয়। সেই জায়গায় বিনানুমতিতে পুকুর, ইঁদারা খননের জন্য ক্ষতিপুরণের নালিশ করে প্রজা-সাধারণকে যথেষ্ট ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত করা হচ্ছে, এটা অত্যন্ত অন্যায়। এই রকম অন্যায় কার্য্য বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিসভা বন্ধ করতে রাজি আছেন কি না? তা যদি না—

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 34,51,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about failure to provide the landlords' facilities for quick realisation of rents.

Sir, from the trend of tenancy legislation in Bengal since 1928 and the attitude of the Government, it will appear that the Government in this province have forgotten that they have a duty towards all sections and classes of people in the matter of realisation of their legitimate dues. It is far from my mind to suggest that legislative measures to palliate the unnecessary hardships of the tenants or to remove their legitimate grievances should not be undertaken. They are perfectly welcome. But what I want to point out is that in the name of safeguarding the interest of the tenants an atmosphere has been created by which payment of rent has now come to be regarded as an unnecessary evil. When the Government is the direct landlord, realisation of rent even by summary procedure is excusable, but attempt at realisation of legitimate rent even with beggar's bowl in his hand by a landholder is a crime! Many people including the Government seem to have forgotten that the landholders exist to collect Government dues and unless the Government help them how can they expect the landholders to be able to discharge their obligations to the Government and pay the revenue. The result of this attitude will be that ultimately the Government is to suffer. Is there any equity, any sense of fairness and justice in a state of things whereby the Government can crush a class of people by the exercise of their sunset law and at the same time create a situation making it difficult, if not impossible, for their agents to realise their dues from the tenants or tenure-holders? But this is what things have actually come to! This may crush the landowner but will help nobody. The only logical sequence will be that the land will pass from one hand to another and the same difficulties will remain and repeat themselves and there will be a vicious circle, creating confusion and chaos. No-payment mentality is already there and it is a natural human weakness and if encouraged indiscriminately and even in cases of legitimate dues, it will not stop by creating confusion merely in the spheres of agriculture, trade, commerce and business but will make the existence and continuance of any stable and sound Government impossible.

Some people are blinded by their frenzied fury against the big landlords imbibed from their ill-digested creed of socialism. I sympathise with their feelings and convictions, though incoherent and ill-co-ordinated. But I must tell them that in the name of communism, or should I say neo-communism, they are bringing down and have already brought down a large section of the landholders to the level of the proletariat but have failed to raise the lot of the proletariat. The landlords according to the Bengal Tenancy Act and according to the socio-economic structure of this province do not mean only a few big landlords. They do include an overwhelmingly large number of poor people holding barely a few hundred acres of land and having very small margins as collectors of rents. They are not rich, they are not idlers and shirkers but are educated, industrious and cultured. These classes of people already struggling hard for their existence, have been reduced to an extremely unenviable position. A good number of them have not even the money to sue the tenants for their continued default for four years for the institution of a suit for a paltry sum of Rs. 4 or Rs. 8 means an aggregate expense of Rs. 25 or more. Even after going through a long and complicated process of law when a decree is obtained and the tenure is purchased by the decree-holder in lieu of his dues, does the trouble of the landholder come to an end? This is only the beginning of fresh troubles. The land in law belongs to the landholder-buyer but the tenants continue to possess the same without any further liability to pay rent.

Whatever little opportunity for realisation of rent through law courts has been left for the landholders after the passing of the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1940, and the incorporation of section 168A, this has often been made infructuous by circumstances which were evidently not foreseen even by the legislators. For the amendment of that section in one important respect a Bill introduced by me is awaiting your consideration. The section deserves thorough overhauling and recasting in the light of the past experiences.

There is an idea underlying all the measures thus far undertaken for the benefit of the tenants that dilatory tactics in payment of rent help the tenants. But this is a very wrong idea if a long and enlightened view is taken. Accumulation of rent due to undue allowance given to the tenants is not a friendly act to them though it may sound a bit harsh outwardly. In reality it only makes easy payment——

Mr. SPEAKER: I regret, your time is up.

Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: May I have two minutes more?

Mr. SPEAKER: I regret.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 34,51,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100, in order to raise a discussion about absence of any comprehensive plan for the rehabilitation of destitutes and for the prevention of alienation of land from cultivators in distress.

Sir, I hardly need any speech for the motion that stands in my name. In connection with various questions put to the Government, it was revealed that so far Government have only met the immediate issues—the problems which they were faced with last year. The issues that are before us now and during the coming few weeks and months are yet in a nebulous state and we are in the dark about the intention of Government both with regard to rehabilitation as well as in particular with regard to the arrangement that Government propose to make for preventing alienation of land. While on this ground I submit, Sir, that the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department should make it absolutely clear whether Government propose to have any wide and big-scale rehabilitation scheme introduced in this province to save the province from a disaster for generations to come, or they would again pursue a policy of drift as they have been normally used to. We have several officers appointed. I understand, Sir, that a Special Officer was appointed to look after the problems of rehabilitation and it is understood that he has no more work in hand now. Schemes were put up. The schemes involved certain land legislation as well as certain measures for relief and encouragement of industries. We have yet to know what Government propose to do, which of those schemes have been approved and what measures have been taken to see that schemes so approved are actually put into operation at an early date.

So far as rehabilitation is concerned, it is rumoured that Government have decided to place about Rs. 50 lakhs or so with the Industries and Commerce Department for having some kind of programme of rehabilitation of small and decaying industries both with a view to improve the industrial conditions of the province as well as simultaneously to have rehabilitation of the famine-stricken people and particularly the artisan classes who were most hard hit during last year. We would like to know if the Hon'ble Revenue Minister is in a position to give us any details of those schemes. The Hon'ble Minister in charge of Finance has stated in his budget speech that the deficit that he has so far shown does not include the amounts that are likely to be spent for rehabilitation work. It is now nearly two months that the budget was prepared and the budget speech was probably prepared a month ago. We would like to know the latest position in that respect whether the Government have actually got any rehabilitation scheme framed and what money has been proposed to be set apart for such schemes.

The second thing that I want in particular to draw attention to is in regard to land alienation. We understand that there is under contemplation an enactment to restore land which has been actually alienated during the famine period. We are as yet not in possession of details except that there was a short Ordinance which has been available. I realise that there are certain practical difficulties in the way. For example, we feel that if the Government merely propose permission to the actual tillers and former owners of land to get back their land on payment, unless Government make a simultaneous provision for advance to such cultivators, mere permission may remain illusory and it may not be availed of. There are also real problems of ascertaining how many of these alienations were actually done as a result of famine conditions and what are the normal alienations and how to differentiate between the two.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 34,51,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about reintroduction of the certificate procedure in khas mahals.

Sir, certificate procedure is a relic of the mediæval landlordism and when in 1937 the whole House agreed to the abolition of certificate procedure, the entire province did welcome that as a very progressive step taken. The reason is obvious. The principle of a claim is that a notice of the claim should be given to the defendant party. The defendants must be heard as to whether they have anything to say regarding right or wrong of the claim and that decision should be on issues framed, but the greatest anomaly of the certificate procedure is that the landlord's claims are assumed to be true and, Sir, the hardships that follow on the basis of such an assumption are too well known to require any specification today.

Now, Sir, for some years this certificate procedure was kept in abeyance even in respect of Government properties, but today, the third Ministry has assumed office in this House to reintroduce the certificate procedure through the back door. This, Sir, is a very unkind cut to say the least. If other landlords can do without certificate procedure, there is no reason why Government cannot, because Government is supposed to have larger resources and more staying power than the private landlords. If the private landlords who have to meet the demands of the Revenue Law and the Astam Law, which are very stringent, if these private landlords can be asked to look after their own resources in order to meet these demands without having had the benefit of certificate procedure, there is no reason on earth why Government should not stay their hands so far as their property is concerned, because they have larger resources, they have enormous taxation resources and they can never be supposed to be in need of money.

Then, Sir, there is another thing. In a particular mauza the same man is a tenant both under the khas mahal and under the private landlord. If the khas mahal uses a certificate procedure and thereby creates a first charge upon its own demand, the effect is that the private landlord will have to wait and wait till the tenant is able enough to meet the demand of the private landlord. I submit that from the point of view of justice and from the point of view of equity it is desirable that certificate procedure should not be reintroduced.

With these words I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Rai Bahadur JOGESH CHANDRA SEN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 34,51,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the policy of fixing revenue of the temporary resettled estates in the Sunderbans area and enhancement of revenues by 500 per cent. and more and extreme indifference of the Settlement Department.

Sir, all the deltaic lands on the south of the districts of Khulna, 24-Parganas and Bakarganj are commonly known as Sundarbans forest

area. It was once a home of Royal Bengal tigers, crocodiles, snakes and various other wild animals and consequently it was a source of great menace to the adjoining main lands and therefore the Government of the day leased out the forest part by part on certain terms and conditions to clear and cultivate the land. The leases were of various descriptions, viz., for 99 years, for 40 years, for 15 years with stipulations for successive renewal every 30 years and the terms were reasonable and moderate for the first period. But the trouble started when the question of resettlement for the next 30 years came up. There are a number of estates which pay 70 per cent. of the amount to the Government as revenue but after several representations the Government revenue is now 50 per cent. of the asset in respect of 40-year lease land. Sir, lease-holders spent their fortune in their venture to reclaim the land, hundreds of lives were lost and many a capitalist were ruined in their efforts to make the lands fit for cultivation. It was, Sir, a stupid idea to lease out the forest lands before these were properly built up—these are below the sea level and therefore have to be protected by high embankments. The whole Sundarbans area was under a Special Commissioner for many years and it is now managed through the ordinary administrative channel.

Now the Government is out of the wood as the lands have been cleared and the main land is safe. Government now takes the mean advantage and where the revenue was 4 annas per *bigha* it is now being raised by 5/6 hundred times. The late Hon'ble Sir Provash Chandra Mitter, a man of great ideas and vision, while he was holding the Revenue portfolio, was pleased to grant some concession and recently the Hon'ble Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee allowed some more concessions and was contemplating further revision when his term of office abruptly ended. I raised this question in this House in 1939 when the then Revenue Minister Sir, Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy gave some sarcastic reply which was worthy only of a third rate man holding a responsible position with his Upper Chamber vacant.

I now appeal to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Revenue who is a real zemindar, to go thoroughly into this question and do justice and not to support the unreasonable recommendations of the Settlement Department. This department, Sir, has no respect for the sections of the Bengal Tenancy Act. They, Sir, do not know the definition of "fair rent". They, including the head of the department, think in one way, talk in another way and write out judgment in quite a different way, brushing aside all canons of justice and fairplay, facts and figures. Even the Revenue Board is sometimes helpless. I, therefore, ask again the Hon'ble Minister to send for the representatives of the Sundarbans Landholders' Association, and hear them and give relief and not to follow that maxim "গাছ পেরিয়ে পাটনি শালা", *i.e.*, when your jungles are cleared, your lands are reclaimed and main land is safe, you kick the lessees out and try to throttle them to death. This is unfair; this is dishonest.

With these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 34,51,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this to raise a discussion about reducing the sale exemption fee penalty due to inability to give land revenue in proper time. Previously the fee was 2 per cent. but now it has been increased to 15 per cent. and even more. The fee should be reduced to the previous rate.

I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 34,51,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100.

The object of moving this motion is to raise a discussion about reducing the process fee for advertisement for sale. Previously the fee was twelve annas only but now Rs. 3 or Rs. 4-8 is being taken. The fee should be reduced to the former rate.

I further beg to move that the demand of Rs. 34,51,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion to raise a discussion with a view to give many thousand acres of the uncultivated Government forest lands of Chakaria Sundarban and Ringvong and other forest lands in Chittagong, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Tippera and Noakhali, to the peasants for cultivation as the lands are worth cultivation, were previously cultivated and would have given a good outturn and thereby to assist the "Grow More Food" campaign and earn both Government revenue money and foodgrains.

আমি, আমার নামে যে motion রহিয়াছে, তা একসঙ্গে move করিতেছি। চট্টগ্রাম জেলার চাকারিয়া সুন্দরবন (A VOICE: সুন্দরবন কোথায়?) খুলনা জেলায় সুন্দরবন নয়, চট্টগ্রাম জেলায় যে চাকারিয়া সুন্দরবন আছে, সেখানে বহু সহস্র একর জমি Forest Department জঙ্গল করিয়া রাখিয়াছেন। তাহা পূর্ব্বে আবাদি জমি ছিল, সেই জমিগুলিতে খালি গাছ উৎপন্ন করিয়া জঙ্গল করিয়া যাহাতে না রাখা হয় সে বিষয় আমি পূর্ব্বেও আলোচনা করিয়াছি। এখন আমি এই সম্বন্ধে আর একটা দিকে বলিতেছি। সেখানকার সেই জমিগুলিতে ধান্য উৎপাদন করিবার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট উহা জনসাধারণকে ছাড়িয়া দিলে সেখানে বহু লক্ষ মণ ধান্য এই বৎসরে না হোক আগামী সনের জানুয়ারী মাসেই জনসাধারণ ইহা পাইয়া খাইতে পারে। সেইজন্য রেভিনিউ মিনিষ্টার মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করি, তিনি যেন Forest Departmentএর সঙ্গে লেখাপড়া করিয়া জমিগুলি অতি শীঘ্র যাহাতে আবাদ করা যায় তাহার ব্যবস্থা করেন। চট্টগ্রাম জেলা ছাড়া নোয়াখালি, ত্রিপুরা এবং পার্ব্বত্য চট্টগ্রামেও ঐরূপ বহু একর জমি আছে তাহার সম্বন্ধেও যেন উক্তরূপ ব্যবস্থা হয়।

তারপর আমার ১৫নং motionএর বিষয় রেভিনিউ মিনিষ্টার মহোদয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। ভূতপূর্ব্ব রেভিনিউ মিনিষ্টার Sir Provash Mitter মহোদয় এবং Sir B. L. Mitter চট্টগ্রাম revenue আদায়ের যে বিধান আছে তাহার খরচা শতকরা ২৲ টাকায় পরিণত করেন। তৎপরবর্ত্তী Ministerও ঐ প্রস্তাবই স্বীকার করেন। কিন্তু বর্ত্তমানে দেখা যাইতেছে যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট ঐ ২৲ টাকাকে শতকরা ১৫৲ টাকায় পরিণত করিয়াছেন। এই দুর্দ্দিনে প্রজার উপর এরূপ উৎপীড়ন করার কারণ কি এ বিষয়ে আমি মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি।

আর একটি বিষয়েও রেভিনিউ মিনিষ্টারের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। খাজনা বাকি পড়িলে নিলামে সম্পত্তি দেবার জন্য মাত্র বারো আনা process fee পূর্ব্বে আদায় করা হইত। কিন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্টের কি উদ্দেশ্য জানি না,—এ কয় বৎসর ধরিয়া সেই বারো আনার স্থলে ৩৲ টাকা, ৩॥০ টাকা, ৪৲ টাকা, ৪॥০ টাকা এমন কি ৬৲ টাকা পর্য্যন্ত কোন কোন স্থলে দাঁড়াইয়াছে।

অনেক স্থলে যদি মাত্র ১৲ টাকা খাজনা আদায় করতে হয় তার সঙ্গে ৩৲ টাকা হইতে ৬৲ টাকা পর্য্যন্ত process fee আদায় করা হইয়া থাকে। যে গরীব বেচারীরা এক টাকা, দেড় টাকা খাজনা দিতে পারে না, সে ছয় টাকা process fee দিয়ে কি করিয়া দিনপাত করিবে? বিশেষ করিয়া আমাদের চট্টগ্রাম জেলা—

Mr. SPEAKER : খানবাহাদুর সাহেব, আপনার সময় শেষ হয়ে গেছে, আপনি দয়া করে থামুন।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY : Sir, আমি আর দুই মিনিট সময় চাই।

Mr. SPEAKER : আর সময় দেয়া যাবে না। আপনি বসুন।

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 34,51,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion to raise a discussion about the loophole in section 168A of the Bengal Tenancy Act, which provides attachment of body for realisation of decretal amount of rent.

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, ১৯৪০ সনে যখন বঙ্গীয় প্রজাস্বত্ব আইন সংশোধন করা হয় তখন তার উদ্দেশ্য ছিল যে প্রজার জমি-জমা যদি বাকী খাজনার জন্য বিক্রয় হয় তাহলে কেবল যে জমির খাজনা বাকী আছে সেই জমিই ধরা যাবে অন্য কিছু ধরা যাবে না। কিন্তু তাতে স্পষ্ট করে বলা হোল না যে তার বিরুদ্ধে body warrant বের করা যাবে কি না। কিন্তু Bahadur Singh *versus* সন্ন্যাসীচরণ ঘোষের মামলায় Mr. Justice Henderson যে রায় দিয়েছেন তাতে বলা হয়েছে—যে বাদী Bahadur Singh ৭১৲ টাকা ডিক্রির জন্য প্রতিবাদী সন্ন্যাসীচরণ ঘোষের বিরুদ্ধে attachment of bodyর permission পেতে পারে এবং যদিও প্রজাস্বত্ব আইন অনুসারে যে জমির খাজনা বাকী পড়েছে শুধু সেটাই নিলামে বিক্রী করার ব্যবস্থা ছিল উদ্দেশ্য, তথাপি সন্ন্যাসীচরণ ঘোষ ইচ্ছা করলে তার দুই বিঘা জমি ও বাড়ী বিক্রয় করে body warrantএর হাত থেকে রক্ষা পেতে পারে। এই রায় দ্বারা স্পষ্টতঃ অন্য জমি পরোক্ষভাবে ধরার পথ পরিষ্কার করে দিয়ে ১৬৮এ ধারার মূল উদ্দেশ্যকেই পণ্ড করে দেয়া হয়েছে। Judgementএ পরিষ্কার করে বলা হয়েছে—

Under section 51(*b*) of the Code of Civil Procedure the Court may order execution of the decree by attachment and sale of any property. This right is cut down by section 168A of the Bengal Tenancy Act. To say that other modes of execution, which are not referred to in the section, are also prohibited, one must read into it something which is not there.

এই প্রসঙ্গে আমাদের রবীন্দ্রনাথের "দুই বিঘা জমি" কবিতার কথা মনে পড়ে। যেখানে জমিদার তার বাগানের দৈর্ঘ্য ও প্রস্থ সমান করার জন্য প্রজার দুই বিঘা জমি গ্রাস করেছিল। জানি না বাহাদুর সিংহের কি প্রয়োজন হলো সন্ন্যাসীচরণের দুই বিঘা জমি গ্রাস করবার—হয়তো এর দ্বারা সন্ন্যাসীচরণকে প্রকৃত সন্ন্যাসী করার সহায়তা হোতে পারে। কিন্তু সে যাহাই হউক এই আইনের ফাঁক দ্বারা এই দুই বিঘা জমি গ্রাস করার সুবিধা দেওয়া হয়েছে। Mr. Justice Hendersonএর judgmentএর ফলে ভবিষ্যতেও বহু সন্ন্যাসীচরণকে প্রকৃত সন্ন্যাসী হতে বাধ্য করা হবে।

অতএব আমি অনুরোধ করি যে অতি সত্বর এক Ordinance জারি করে ১৬৮এ ধারার মূল উদ্দেশ্য পণ্ড করার ব্যবস্থা এখনই রুদ্ধ করা হউক এবং শীঘ্রই একটি বিল এনে Civil Procedure Codeএর 168A ধারার সংশোধন করুন।

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, men may come and men may go but Maharajas will go on for ever——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I know, Sir, how long you will take to decide about the arrangement of speakers for we have to arrange our speakers? Otherwise I find that contrary to our arrangements you are allowing other speakers to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, kindly resume your seat. I have arranged that all the Whips will meet me in my Chamber at 5 p.m., and it is only five or seven minutes to five. You can wait for these seven minutes, and in the meantime I hope you will not disturb the proceedings of the House in this way.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I must tell you, Sir, I did not want to disturb the proceedings of the House even though you have been pleased to make a remark like that.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right. If that has offended you I withdraw the expression and substitute any expression that may be agreeable to you.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Thank you, Sir. Please do not use such words in future.

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: As I was saying, Sir, Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar, will go on for ever. He can probably suffer people die in large numbers, but he requires speedy realisation of rents. Even when there is famine in the country, there are so many cases of starvation and when people are dying as a result thereof by lakhs and lakhs, the Maharaja must have his rent speedily realised. But, Sir, these are the occasions when probably a Maharaja with a charitably-disposed mind should come forward with a speedy proposal for remission of rents. But that was never thought of by him. It is unfortunate that the Maharaja now comes forward with a proposal for speedy realisation of rents and for a legislation for that purpose. Speedy realisation should mean on the other side speedy remission when occasion requires it: remission must be there, otherwise speedy realisation cannot be ensured. It is not today only, Sir, it is for ages—we may call it, for centuries also—that they are reaping the benefit of a legislation which was thrust upon Bengal by the then Administration in 1793, and that was probably the most unfortunate day for Bengal when the Permanent Settlement came into existence in Bengal to control and govern the tenantry interest. At that time we got one class of people who started eating into the very vitals of the people. The people were left to their mercy. The Adiminstration did not look at all to the interest of the people. Those days are now long past. Developments have come from time to time and ultimately many struggles have led to create certain rights in favour of the tenants. But today also they are in such a mess that they can ill-afford to withstand the oppression of the landlords. Everybody knows how the tetants are mercilessly dealt with by the landlords in village areas: everybody knows how rents are realised by landlords. Even

when the tenant is oppressed, it is not possible sometimes for him to institute any case against the landlord. That is the situation. Sir, everybody knows that land revenue yields only Rs. 2,28 lakhs to the Government. Whereas, on the other hand, the tenants are paying to the zemindars as rent to the extent of about Rs. 18 crores. Where does the balance go? Does it go to the benefit of the State? Surely not. Does it go to benefit of the tenants? Surely not. The tenants are toiling day in and day out: sometimes they get good crop, sometimes they do not on account of inclemency of weather and other causes. But when they do not get good crops, is there any chance of any remission of their rents? No; no remission, no mercy. They are left entirely to the mercy of those people who realise 18 crores of rupees from them of which the public exchequer gets only 2,28 lakhs of rupees. That being the position, Sir, can we conceive of any system by which a speedier collection of rents may be made at a time when famine is there, pestilence is there, starvation is there, and death from starvation is there? Therefore I would suggest that Government should take steps to abolish the Permanent Settlement. The State will then acquire responsibility in the matter of collection of rents, so that there may be remissions in really deserving cases also. But the Maharajah will have speedier collection just now and such are the people who adorn the opposition benches!

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI :—Mr. Speaker, Sir, বাংলার রাজস্ব আইনের কয়েকটি গলদ সম্পর্কে আমি এখানে বলিতে চাই। নীলাম আইনের ৮ এবং ১১ আইনের সূর্য্যাস্তেই নিলামের ব্যবস্থা আছে। আমি আশা করি, মাননীয় রাজস্ব-সচিব মি: তারকনাথ মুখার্জি আমার কথাগুলি মনোযোগ দিয়ে শুনবেন। বাংলার রাজস্ব সম্বন্ধীয় ৮ ও ১১ আইনে যে নীলামের বন্দোবস্ত আছে তাহা অত্যন্ত আপত্তিকর ও অবিচারমূলক আইন। যদি কোন মালিক—জমিদার ও তালুকদার তাঁদের দেয় রাজস্ব কালেক্টরীতে বা জমিদার কাছারীতে সূর্য্যাস্তের মধ্যে না দেন তবে সেই জমিদারী বা তালুক নীলাম হয়। নীলাম খরিদার যে সম্পত্তি নীলামে খরিদ করে সেই সম্পত্তির অধীনস্থ অর্থাৎ নীলামি জমিদারী বা তালুকের যে সমস্ত মধ্যস্বত্ব, যথা, সিকমি, দর সিকমি, হাওলা, দর হাওলা, কায়েমী, পত্তনি প্রভৃতি স্বত্ব থাকে তাহা সব নষ্ট হয়ে যায় এবং সমস্ত right নীলাম খরিদ্দারের হাতে চলে যায়। এবং যদি নূতন মালিক অর্থাৎ নীলাম খরিদ্দার প্রজাকে প্রজা স্বীকার না করেন অথবা পুনরায় বন্দোবস্ত না দেন তাহলে প্রজাদিগকে বাধ্য হয়ে সমস্ত সম্পত্তি নীলাম খরিদ্দারের দখলে ছেড়ে দিয়ে সর্ব্বস্বান্ত হয়ে স্ত্রীপুত্র নিয়ে পথে বসতে হয়। ৮ ও ১১ আইনের সূর্য্যাস্তের নীলামের কুপ্রথা থাকার দরুণ এই বাংলা দেশের উপর লক্ষ লক্ষ প্রজা সর্ব্বস্ব হারাইয়া পথের কাঙ্গাল হইতেছে, দেশ ছাড়িয়া চলিয়া যাইতেছে। সেইজন্য বলিতেছি গভর্ণমেণ্টের এই আইনটা হচ্ছে সম্পূর্ণই বে-আইনী আইন—পক্ষপাতমূলক আইন—প্রজাপীড়ক আইন। অনেক সময় দেখা যায় জমিদার বা তালুকদার নিজেদের সম্পত্তির আয় বৃদ্ধির উদ্দেশ্যে, প্রজা পীড়ন করার উদ্দেশ্যে, শরিকদারকে ঠকাইবার উদ্দেশ্যে সেস্ বা খাজনা না দিয়ে ৮ ও ১১ আইনে সম্পত্তি নীলাম করাইয়া থাকেন, এইরূপ অনেক দৃষ্টান্ত আছে। Sir, প্রজার কাছ থেকে খাজনা নিয়ে প্রজাকে উচ্ছেদ করবার বা তার খাজনার

হার বৃদ্ধি করবার অথবা নিজেদের অন্য কোন কাজ হাসিল করবার জন্য তাদের সম্পত্তি ৮ ও ১১ আইনমতে নীলাম করিয়ে নিজের আত্মীয়স্বজন বা কর্ম্মচারী ও বন্ধু-বান্ধবের ষ্টেটের উকিলের নামে বেনামিতে খরিদ করে থাকেন। তারপর নীলাম খরিদ্দারের কাছ থেকে কবলা করিয়ে নিয়ে প্রজাদের সঙ্গে আবার নূতন বন্দোবস্ত কোরে নিজের মতলব হাসিল করে থাকেন। এই সূর্য্যাস্তের ৮ ও ১১ আইন এটাকে কুমতলবে ব্যবহার করে স্বার্থপর জমিদার ও তালুকদার-গণ বাংলার কায়েমি স্বত্ববিশিষ্ট বহু প্রজাকে সর্ব্বস্বান্ত করেছেন এখনও করিতেছেন। এ বিষয়ে আমি Revenue Minister, Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjeaকে জানাচ্ছি যে বাংলার কায়েমি স্বত্ববিশিষ্ট প্রজাদিগকে এই অত্যাচার থেকে রক্ষা করতে হবে। অবিলম্বে রাজস্ব সম্পর্কিত নীলাম আইনের ৮ ও ১১ ধারা সংশোধন করতে হবে। এবং ৮ ও ১১ আইনের সংশোধন করিয়া প্রজাদের স্বার্থরক্ষা করতে হবে। এই অত্যাচার বন্ধ করতে হবে, এই অত্যাচার হইতে নিরীহ প্রজাদিগকে রেহাই দিতে হইবে। জমিদারী প্রথার বিরুদ্ধে আজ সমস্ত বাংলা দেশময় বাংলার ঘরে ঘরে প্রবল আন্দোলন চলছে—জমিদারী প্রথা উচ্ছেদের জন্য এবং এই পরিষদেও প্রত্যেক বৎসর Sessionএ বহু বক্তৃতা হয় এবং বহু যুক্তিতর্ক উপস্থিত করা হয়, অথচ চিরস্থায়ী প্রথা যেমন আছে, তেমনি থেকে যায়, ফ্লাউড কমিশন রিপোর্ট পরিষদে উপস্থিত করা হয় না। এর ভিতর কি গোপন রহস্য লুক্কায়িত আছে তাহা গভর্ণ-মেণ্টই জানেন কিন্তু আমাদের দৃঢ় বিশ্বাস যতদিন পর্য্যন্ত এ দেশ থেকে জমিদারী প্রথার উচ্ছেদ না হবে, ততদিন পর্য্যন্ত বাংলার বেকার সমস্যার সমাধান হবে না, এবং বাংলার শিল্পও সঞ্জী-বিত হবে না। শিল্পের প্রসার ও উন্নতি হবে না, প্রজাদের সুখ-শান্তি হবে না। তাই অতি সত্বর জমিদারী প্রথা উচ্ছেদের ব্যবস্থা করার জন্য আমি দাবী জানাইতেছি।

আর একটা বিষয়ের প্রতি আমি লক্ষ্য করেছি এবং তৎপ্রতি পরিষদেরও মনযোগ আকর্ষণ করিতেছি যে রেভিনিউ বিভাগের দ্বারা যেমন এযাবৎ জমিদারী প্রথার উচ্ছেদ হয় নাই, তেমনি প্রজাস্বত্ব আইনে যেসব গলদ আছে তারও কোন সংশোধন হয় নাই। ইহার কারণ এই যে, আমরা এই বাংলা দেশে একে একে তিনটি Ministry দেখলাম। হক মিনিষ্ট্রী, Progressive Ministry আর নাজি মিনিষ্ট্রী। হক Ministryর আমলে রেভিনিউ বিভাগের ভার ছিল Sir Bijoy Prosadএর উপর, তিনি ছিলেন জমিদার ও বর্দ্ধমান বিভাগের জমিদার প্রতিনিধি, মাঝখানে হয়েছিলেন মিঃ প্রমথনাথ বানার্জি তিনি জমিদার কি না জানি না। এখন নাজি গভর্ণ-মেণ্টের সময় যিনি রেভিনিউ মিনিষ্টার হয়েছেন তিনি একজন বিশিষ্ট landholder ও সেই বর্দ্ধমান বিভাগের জমিদার প্রতিনিধি, তিনি কখনও তাঁহার নিজ স্বার্থের ও তাঁহার নির্ব্বাচকের স্বার্থের বিরুদ্ধে যাইতে পারেন না। প্রজা প্রতিনিধি—

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Khan Bahadur SHAH ABDUR RAUF: Sir, while rising to oppose all the cut motions that have been moved by my friends on the side opposite, I take this opportunity to place two of my grievances and draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge with regard to them.

Sir, the first is with regard to the Court of Wards. I do not support the policy of the Government to take up the estates of disqualified proprietors who themselves cannot manage their estates. That policy is bad and Government will do well hereafter not to take up any estate of disqualified proprietors. But when the policy is there, my grievance on that score is this that the appointments in the Court of Wards are not made on the communal ratio basis. I specially invite the attention of the Hon'ble

Minister in charge to look to this point and to look to the interests of the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes and see that so far as appointments in the Court of Wards Estates are concerned, they are made strictly in accordance with the communal ratio.

Sir, the second point that I should like to deal with is the Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill. This Assembly for a long time past has been crying hoarse over this matter and there were proposals to frame a Bill and send it to the Select Committee for consideration. Up till now, no action in this direction has been taken by any of the Ministries that have passed. Now, I request the Hon'ble Minister in charge to take courage in both hands and come forward with a Bill as soon as possible so that the grievances of the people may be redressed in no time.

Sir, these are the only two points I liked to deal with.

Mr. J. A. POWELL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the opportunity afforded by the cut motion of my honourable friend Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar, to make a few remarks on the subject of realisation of rents by landlords in this province.

There are as we all know many undesirable features in the land tenure system of Bengal. Drastic measures of reform are called for to correct the many complexities, some of which have their origin in the Permanent Settlement: but I know of no direction in which reform is more urgently needed than in the legal machinery to which the landlord has to resort in recovering rents from his tenant. Nobody wants, myself least of all, to see landlords given chances to oppress their tenants, to seize their crops or employ harsh methods to extort money from them which they cannot pay. What I suggest is simplification and speeding up of legal procedure, and this, I maintain, would be in the best interest of landlord and tenant alike.

Smaller intermediate tenure-holders are often placed in a difficult position as a result of the delay in realising their rents. They may have above them a zemindar who has the benefit of summary procedure in realisation, so they have to pay on the nail on the appointed day. If their margin of profit is large they do not need any sympathy on that account; but sometimes their profit is small and is swallowed up in litigation costs in trying to recover what is legally their due. They cannot afford to have three or four years' rent outstanding. But to cut down litigation costs, which would otherwise be colossal they wait, hoping for payment, until the full period of limitation has passed. When they are thus driven to court, two or three years more may elapse before they can bring the holding to sale and realise their dues.

From the point of view of the cultivating *raiyat* it is, in my opinion, just as much to his benefit to have a more summary settlement of his accounts each year as it is to the landlords. In times of scarcity and distress, like this terrible year of famine through which this unhappy province has just passed, thousands of families have been unable to provide for themselves the barest sustenance, let alone pay rents. My point with regard to that is, let that position be cleared up straightaway. Where remission is to be granted, let it be done, wholly or partially, at once. If something is to be left unpaid till the next year, let that be settled. To shelve the matter and let interest accumulate is not the way to tackle the situation.

It must be admitted that, while economic hardship causes tenants in many cases to fall into arrears there are many others who, naturally improvident, put off the evil day year after year. Such a tenant ignores the suit filed against him by his landlord—he knows there is plenty of time, but eventually the day of reckoning comes and he wakes up to find ruin staring him in the face. To prevent his land from passing into the hands of others he has to pay a sum which, with the addition of law costs and interest, has amounted to something very considerable. To raise this, he has to get into debt, and the whole miserable business starts again. The time comes eventually when he can rescue himself no longer, his land passes to strangers, and he joins the everswelling ranks of landless labourers.

These things, Sir, should not be allowed to happen. Introduce a speedy and fair procedure, and much distress will be avoided. If there is any question of remission, let it be settled in the same year: start every year with a clean sheet, at any rate as far as is humanly possible.

I am convinced that by suitable legislation to achieve these ends, the best interests of the people, both landlords and tenants, will be served.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, some specific motion is standing in my name, namely, motion No. 23, but I am not going to move it. I shall only make some formal observations.

Sir, now-a-days many of the people of different communities have taken to fishing as their occupation. But, Sir, I am not concerned with them. I mean those *bonâ fide* fishermen who have been pursuing fishing for subsistence from time immemorial and generation after generation. They are nearly nine lakhs of people in this province. They have been sincerely pursuing the occupation but they have not been able to make any improvement of their condition. These were the people who were the worst sufferers during the last food crisis. If the Government would have set up an enquiry, they might have seen that it is the fishermen amongst whom the death rate from starvation was much higher than that in other classes. Many of their families have quitted their paternal residence to some other places outside the province in search of their food. Government organised relief in various forms to mitigate the sufferings of the mass, no doubt, but these classes, I mean the fishermen, derived little benefit out of them. The Government distributed agricultural loans but as they have no lands no such loans were given to them. They started test relief works but as they have no other training save and except that of catching fish they could have no help then. They organised free kitchens and distributed gratuitous loans but they had little relief there partly due to want of proper representation of their cause to the authority and partly to the meagreness of the help to the widespread scarcity in the province. It is an admitted fact on all hands having a little knowledge about rural area that the miseries of these people rose to the climax. They have in many cases sold away their houses and in most cases their utensils to keep their body and soul together.

These fishermen are in immediate need of help in cash as well as in kind to restore them to their former position. We are glad to learn that the Government have already taken a move in that direction in the district

of Pabna. They have supplied thread worth Rs. 16,000. But from a talk with the officers concerned there I come to understand that there is more demand. At least six times more help is necessary to meet their needs. In this situation I request the Government to arrange without delay help according to their needs.

Sir, during the last crisis mass people suffered more or less but the fishermen suffered most. There are some rasons behind it. It is true that Government from time to time made attempts for the revival of the fish industry in the province and accordingly appointed experts from time to time to study the fish problem and fishery situation, but, Sir, we find no indication on the part of Government at any time to enquire into the social as well as economic position of the poor fishermen.

The fishermen lead a very wretched life in the society. They have been conducting this business from time immemorial but they have been getting poorer and poorer, whereas the middlemen are getting richer and richer. They have also got a peculiar position with regard to their fishery where they fish from generation to generation. Fishery is their only property upon which they are to entirely depend for their livelihood. Unfortunately they have not been able to secure any tangible right therein. Their right is very shaky and everchanging at the whims of the zemindars. I would, therefore, request Government to come foward with a Bill safeguarding the rights and interests of these fishermen.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Dr. GOBINDA CHANDRA BHAWMIK : মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, মাননীয় Revenue Minister যেভাবে কার্য্য চালাচ্ছেন তা অত্যন্ত কদর্য্য বলা যেতে পারে। যখন কাঁথি, তমলুক এলাকায় লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক না খেতে পেয়ে মরে যাচ্ছে তখন ঐ অঞ্চলে certificate প্রথা দ্বারা রাজস্ব আদায়ের চেষ্টা করা হচ্ছে। কয়েক বৎসর পূর্ব্বে যখন ঐ অঞ্চলে বন্যা হয় তখন Revenue Minister বলেছিলেন যে বৎসর খাজনার টাকা আদায় করা হবে না এবং জমিদারদেরও সেই অনুপাতে প্রজার খাজনা remission দিতে হবে। কিন্তু তা সত্ত্বেও এখন প্রত্যেক প্রজার নিকট হতে বকী খাজনা আদায় করার চেষ্টা হচ্ছে। এখনও Contai এবং Tamluk subdivisionএ relief দেওয়া হচ্ছে সঙ্গে সঙ্গে গরীব প্রজাগণের নিকট হতে খাজনা আদায়ের চেষ্টা হচ্ছে এবং যে সমস্ত ঋণ দেওয়া হয়েছিল সেগুলিও আদায় করবার মহড়া আরম্ভ হোয়েছে। যখন লোক মৃত্যুমুখে পতিত হচ্ছে তখন তাদের পেষণ করবার জন্য নিত্য নূতন উপায় উদ্ভাবন করা হচ্ছে। মন্ত্রী মহাশয় এ সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলিলে তিনি বলেন এটা Revenue Boardএর ব্যাপার। আজ যখন reliefএর দরকার তখন মন্ত্রী মহাশয় ঋণ আদায় করবার জন্য Assistant Collector নিযুক্ত করছেন। প্রাদেশিক বাজেটে ১০ কোটি টাকারও অধিক ঘাটতি পড়েছে, এই অবস্থায় কয়েক লক্ষ টাকা আদায়ের জন্য এত তোড়জোড় কেন। আমাদের সমস্ত আবেদন-নিবেদন all gone in vain. আমি মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের কাছে স্পষ্ট কোরে জানতে চাই তিনি এইসব দুঃস্থ প্রজাদের ঋণ এবং খাজনা হোতে রেহাই দিবেন কি না। যদি না পারেন তাহোলে মন্ত্রিত্ব ছেড়ে দেওয়া উচিত। Revenue Departmentকে ডুবিয়ে দেওয়া উচিত, কাছেই গঙ্গা বয়ে যাচ্ছে।

আজ লোকে না খেয়ে মরছে। হয়তো দেশে আবার দুর্ভিক্ষ আসবে। আজ যেভাবে গরীব প্রজাগণের নিকট হোতে কৃষিঋণ, খাদ্যঋণ আদায় করা হোচ্ছে তা সভ্য জগতে বিরল।

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the immediate necessity of amending certain sections of the Bengal Tenancy Act. My friend, Mr. Bokainagari, while moving his cut motion made a passing reference to the condition of the tenants of my district, specially in the Pargana Sarail. The zemindar, who is an absentee landlard, has been instituting a large number of cases under section 155 of the Bengal Tenancy Act for ejectment of tenants on the ground that "they have used the land in a manner which renders it unfit for the purposes of the tenancy". If a tenant digs a tank in the holding, the zemindar at once goes to the court and takes the help of section 155 on the ground that his tenant has rendered the land "unfit for the purposes of the tenancy".

The necessity of amending section 23 of the Bengal Tenancy Act was brought home previously by me and I again press the necessity of immediately amending that section which is a misfit. Originally the right of occupancy was not a property in the legal sense of the term. Now it has been made property. It is now transferable though originally it was not transferable. As it is transferable, the tenant should be allowed to use the land in any manner he likes. There is no longer any need for any wording like this. Thus, it will be seen that there is an immediate necessity of amending section 23 of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

There is another section which also needs immediate amendment and that is section 26G of the Bengal Tenancy Act. I do not know if the Hon'ble Minister is aware of a recent ruling of the Hon'ble High Court. As regards section 26G the intention of the Legislature was clear. When this section was introduced in the Bengal Tenancy Act the intention was that all forms of mortgage in which possession has been delivered to the mortgagee "shall be deemed to have been extinguished after the expiry of 15 years". Recently Mr. Justice Roxburgh on account of an unhappy expression in sub-section (*5*) of section 26G has held that this section is not applicable to all mortgages. The remedy of such persons is to institute a suit. They cannot avail under section 26G of the Act. Therefore, I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to this ruling reported in the "Calcutta Weekly Notes, Volume, XLVII". I wish that the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department reads that ruling and amends section 26G in order to make the intention of the Legislature clear.

I also wish to refer to the immediate necessity of amending another section, I mean section 147 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. Under sub-section (*2*) of section 147, a landlord is entitled to bring a suit for a portion of the arrears of rent in respect of a holding. I think, Sir, that the landlord should also be authorised to institute a suit for a portion of the arrears in respect of a tenure.

With these few words, I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the immediate necessity of amending the Bengal Tenancy Act.

Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM: মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, বোকাই নগরী সাহেব তিনটি বিষয়ে গভর্ণমেণ্টকে দোষ দিয়েছেন—বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্ট জমিদারী প্রথা উঠিয়ে দেবার কোন চেষ্টা করে নাই। আমি বলি তাঁরা মাত্র ৮ মাস কাজ করছেন। ৮ মাস সময় কিছু নয়।

তা ছাড়া যুদ্ধের সময় এই কাজ কিরূপে করা যেতে পারে, (Mr. ABDUL WAHED: বিগত মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী যে কাজটা আরম্ভ করেছিলেন সেইটা করলেও পারতেন।)

বিগত মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী যে জমিদারী প্রথা উঠিয়ে দেবার ঘোষণা করেছিলেন তার মূলে কি ছিল—তাঁরা ঘোষণা করেছিলেন ১৫ গুণ ক্ষতিপূরণ দেওয়া হবে। এটা জমিদারের favourএ না প্রজার favourএ আপনারা বিবেচনা করুন। Land Revenue Commissionএর মেম্বর-গণ মাত্র ১০ গুণ ক্ষতিপূরণের সুপারিশ করেছিলেন। আপনারা বুকে হাত দিয়ে চিন্তা করুন এই ১৫গুণ ক্ষতিপূরণ দেওয়ার সিদ্ধান্ত এটা কি প্রজার favourএ? আর একটা কথা—

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Mr. Speaker, Sir,——

Point of Order.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: May I rise to a point of order, Sir? I should like to seek your ruling on the point that if two members have paired and one of them occupies the Chair of the House after such pairing and if in case there is a tie, would the Chair be allowed to throw the casting vote on either side?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, as a matter of fact it is a very exceptional circumstance to which you have referred and I was going out in connection with the Leaders' Conference in the Speaker's Chamber But you know that it is very unlikely that there will be an occasion for exercising the casting vote.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Is it allowed under the rules of the Assembly for a member who has paired to occupy the Chair? I do not know what the circumstances were Is this correct or proper? Sir, I do know if there is a panel of Chairmen but if there is, should not one of the members of that panel be asked to come and occupy the Chair?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi has been in the habit of rising on points of order which are mostly silly and without ground.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order, Dr. Sanyal.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We want to speak on this point of order. Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The point of order raised by Mr. Siddiqi is no point of order and I have not given any decision on it because it requires no decision. Therefore, you need not speak on it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope by so doing you will not abuse that particular section which allows you to raise a point of order for it is no use rising on a point of order if there is no point of order.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But if any member abuses another member the latter has the right to reply to him.

My point of order is this. We had been allotted certain time for speakers on this side of the House and we were surprised to find that peremptorily with that order came the order that we would not be allowed

more than five minutes each to speak. But now, in the absence of any other speaker, evidently you are calling upon the Hon'ble Minister to conclude the debate on "Land Revenue". We have only one hour allotted for the next demand and we shall go on till 7-30 today. That means that we shall still have half an hour left without any business. We should therefore like to know why is it that you are so merciless to members that you are not allowing them to speak tonight even though you have enough time at your disposal.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In my opinion this is also not a point of order. I was under the impression that it was all due to an agreement. I have got the order paper before me and I have also received instructions from Mr. Speaker in which I have got all the names.

7—Land Revenue.

Mr. ABDUL WAHED: Sir, আমি মৌলবী আব্দুল হাকিমকে উত্তরে কিছু বলতেচাই।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, Mr. Abdul Wahed Bokainagari wants to speak.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As far as I remember he moved the motion standing in the name of Maulvi Asimuddin Ahmed and has already spoken.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He has moved the motion but he wants to speak generally now.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He cannot speak twice on the same subject. There is now only seven minutes left and I ask the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea to reply to the debate.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since you have been pleased to give me seven minutes I propose to be very brief. The demand of Rs. 34,51,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" which is expected to yield an income of Rs. 3,79,45,000 may be said to be quite fair and modest, because the total expenditure does not come up to 10 per cent. of the total receipt.

As regards motion No. 16 which stands in the name of Mr. Asimuddin Ahmed and which was moved by my friend, Mr. Abdul Wahed Bokainagari, in reply to his criticism, Sir, I submit that the present Government is doing its best to give effect to the recommendations of the Land Revenue Commission. As is well known, of the principal recommendations of the Land Revenue Commission the first and foremost is the provision for agricultural income-tax. The present Government has already taken steps as regards that and the Bill is now before the House. As regards the other recommendations the present Government is most anxious and is carefully considering those recommendations and I can assure the House that steps will be taken as soon as possible. As regards reduction of rents of tenants hard hit by the last famine, I submit that the present Government has done much more than giving mere relief in the matter of famine and in due course when the question of famine relief will come up I shall place before the House in all its details what the present Government has done to give relief to the *raiyat*. For the present I may inform the House that the report

of the Rent Reduction Committee is expected to be received by Government very soon and as soon as that report is received Government will carefully consider it. Regarding the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill temporary provision has already been made and the permanent Bill for non-agricultural tenancy has already been gazetted and Government is consulting the leaders of different parties now and hopes to bring this up before the House during the current session of the Assembly and refer it to a Select Committee so that the Bill may be passed in the next session.

Regarding cut motion No. 17 moved by Maharaja of Cossimbazar, I can tell him that Government also realise the difficulties of landlords in the matter of realisation of rents. The Land Revenue Commission also found that the present procedure for the realisation of rent is cumbrous, dilatory, expensive and harassing both to the landlord and to the tenant and recommended a summary procedure for the realisation of rent by a Special Revenue Court. That matter is under consideration of Government.

Then, Sir, as regards the motion of Dr. Sanyal, I may tell the House that a Cabinet Sub-Committee consisting of seven Ministers has been formed which sat from day to day and has already drawn up a comprehensive scheme for rehabilitation. And Government expect to announce their recommendations after the approval of the Cabinet at a very early date and put the recommendations into actual operation very soon. By the rehabilitation scheme Government propose to introduce improvements in the matter of agriculture, in the matter of industrial development, in the matter of improvement, encouragement and restoration of cottage industries, and also to start work-houses and give medical relief and introduce improvements in public health works, and also improvements in irrigation schemes and the "Grow More Food" campaign. For these a very large amount of money will be spent and today I am not in a position to announce in the House the scheme in all its details, but I do hope it will be possible for the Government to announce the rehabilitation scheme at a very early date and probably within the course of this month. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Thank you.)

As regards the motion of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal regarding the stringent measures about the certificate procedure in khas mahals, I would only submit that the necessity for proper collection of public demand cannot be overemphasized for smooth and efficient administration. No stringent measure has, in fact, been adopted anywhere.

Sir, as regards the allegations made by my friend Dr. Gobinda Chandra Bhawmik, I would only say that these are wild allegations. When this distinguished member told me about these, I asked him to let me have a few specific instances and I assured him that if he could give any specific instance, Government would take immediate and prompt steps to remedy that.

Sir, I may announce in this House that Government have long before announced that, to give relief to the tenants in the cyclone-affected areas and to save them from payment of rent, under the provisions of the Tauzi Manual, Government is encouraging landlords to get remission of the entire revenue, provided they give an entire remission of rent to tenants in those affected areas. Many landlords have already taken advantage of that and

thereby the tenants in those areas have been completely exempted in the matter of payment of rent. (Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: How many zemindars have taken advantage of it?) It is rather difficult for me to tell the House how many zemindars have taken advantage of that, but I may tell you that many zemindars have and any zemindar who has applied for it has been granted such concession. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Why not issue a Press Note?) That has been issued twice and if the House so wants, I will issue a press statement giving all details.

Sir, certificate procedure has been granted not to any private landlord, not even to the Court of Wards, but only in the matter of realisation of Government's own revenue in the khas mahal and that also as an experimental measure. Specific instructions have been issued to officers concerned that no hard or coercive measure should be adopted and they should see that no undue hardship is caused to any tenant. But I may tell you that the certificate procedure is in a sense better than the ordinary procedure, because that is less harassing and less expensive both for the Government as well as for the tenants. If the rent is realised by the certificate procedure, the tenant is practically exempted from paying any litigation expenses. So, Sir, the certificate procedure is intended not merely for quick realisation of public demand but because that involves as little cost as possible both to the debtor as well as to Government. The Land Revenue Commission also observed that the unpopularity of certificate procedure in the matter of realisation of rent has not been so much due to any inherent defects in the system as to the fact that it has not always been properly administered and Government has taken special steps here to see that it is properly administered. So, as I have already said, this certificate procedure has been introduced only in the khas mahal.

Sir, coming to the cut motion of my honourable friend Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra Sen, I would only submit that it may be that in certain cases it may have caused great hardship to the *potedars* and to the proprietors of temporarily-settled estates in the Sunderbans for the simple reason that according to the original rule the leases were renewed in the scale that the maximum revenue has got to be paid, say, 35 per cent. of the gross assets of three-fourths of the total area, but subsequently this rule was modified and the proprietor of a temporarily-settled estate under the new rule is required to pay a revenue which is not more than 65 per cent. of the gross assets of the three-fourths of the area of the estate. Thus, Sir, it is quite natural that the revenue has been increased as compared with the proportion of revenue paid in an ordinary estate. This again——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Sir, I was told that I would be given 20 minutes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time was 7 minutes but I have given you 12 minutes.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Sir, may I have only two minutes more?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: In certain cases there may have been undue hardship, but if those cases are brought to the notice of Government, they will certainly see their way to consider those cases where there has been any undue hardship.

As regards the motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury, I would only say that the report of the Forest Enquiry Committee is now being carefully considered by the Forest Department and I understand that necessary steps will be taken at a very early date.

Lastly as regards the motion of my friend Sj. Narendra Nath Das Gupta, I may say that section 168A was originally intended to the effect that lands for which rents are in arrears can only be attached in execution of a decree, but under the ruling of the High Court it has been changed and a private member has already introduced a Bill to remedy this defect. Government have also carefully considered this and other defects in the section so that it may be possible to remedy these at a very early date.

Sir, with these words I oppose all the cut motions.

The motion of Maulvi Abdul Wahed that the demand of Rs. 34,51,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar, that the demand of Rs. 34,51,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 34,51,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal that the demand of Rs 34,51,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra Sen that the demand of Rs 34,51,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The three motions of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 34,51,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 were then by leave of the House withdrawn.

The motion of Srijut Narendra Nath Das Gupta that the demand of Rs. 34,51,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea that a sum of Rs. 34,51,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" was then put and agreed to.

22—Interest on Debt and Other Obligations.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 5,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "22—Interest on Debt and Other Obligations".

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 5,000 for expenditure under the head "22—Interest on Debt and Other Obligations" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the policy and the procedure underlying the issue of Treasury Bills, the cash credit advances from the Imperial Bank, the loans taken from the Central Government and the obligations of the province in view of the improper application of the proceeds of the same.

Sir, I have managed to secure five minutes of the valuable time of this House and I have to deal with an item of only Rs. 57,65,00,000. Therefore my minute is valued, according to the judgment which is unchallengeable of the Chair, at about Rs. 12 crores. Therefore, Sir, I was just considering whether I who do not like to hear my voice should be sad or glad. In any event, I would like to put some questions to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister.

The ways and means advance usually taken from the Reserve Bank in order to maintain the stipulated minimum balance is Rs. 25 lakhs with the Bank. We have been told that the ways and means advances now total Rs. 2,30,00,000, and these advances are ordinarily payable within a week or ten days. This year, Sir, and the last year under review, we had Treasury Bills to the extent of Rs. 20 crores only and my honourable friend has made an estimate—he deals with lakhs and crores of rupees, I do not know how many hundreds of crores—he estimates that a further sum of Rs. 12 crores by way of Treasury Bills will be necessary before the close of the current year. He obviously refers, I suppose, to the year that is coming, that is to say, from that auspicious date the 1st April, 1944 to the 31st March, 1945. If that is so, then will these advances be ordinarily payable within the time allotted or not? This year, in the Disbursement List, I find that we have a balance of Rs. 3½ crores and in the budget figure I find that my honourable friend is expecting a carry-over of Rs. 15½ crores from the current year If my addition is not wrong then Rs. 15½ crores will be added to the *minus* balance of Rs. 3½ crores. Then my honourable friend has taken into account the cash credit advance from the Imperial Bank of India. In accordance with his principles which are none, he has totalled the advances in two years and not in the period of one year, which is the customary period for the purpose of presenting budget estimates. My honourable friend might have as well taken into account futurity for the next five years. While the total estimate for the two years is Rs. 39,20,00,000, and in 1944-45 my honourable friend proposes to repay a small sum of Rs. 25 crores, my honourable friend's expectations are very optimistic.

With reference to this small amount of Rs 25 crores, my honourable friend dealt with the Aus Purchase Scheme in 1943-44 and the Aman Purchase Scheme and its allies the food control operations. My honourable friend in his last budget speech referred to the purchase of 65 lakh maunds —we do not know yet whether paddy or rice—and for that purpose he was supposed to have taken advance to the extent of Rs. 16 crores from the Imperial Bank of India. That statement of his is belied by his statement on page 84 of the Red Book this year. The actual advance, I find, was Rs. 2,21,00,000 and therefore that accounts for the breakdown of the Aman Purchase Scheme and that also accounts for the prevalence of famine conditions in this province between the months of September, October, November

and December, 1943-44. This year, Sir, the Aman Purchase Scheme has cost or will cost the Government Rs. 25 crores. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister whether the Aman Purchase Scheme is in operation; if not, when it will be put into operation, and, thirdly, if it is put into operation what would be its relationship with the rationing scheme introduced in Calcutta and Greater Calcutta and the rationing scheme which is proposed to be introduced by the Government of Bengal in rural areas and in urban areas covered by rural areas?

Sir, with regard to the advance in respect of Civil Defence expenditure, I find that the Hon'ble Finance Minister asked for an advance of Rs. 9½ crores from the Centre. Apparently, not more than Rs. 3 crores was available. Well, I should like to know why was this paucity in the funds at the Centre. The Hon'ble Sir Jeremy Raisman was very eulogistic towards the Bengal Ministry when he stated at the Centre that the finances of Bengal were not in a hopeless condition. The patient is asking for breath and has not yet collapsed and gone to the other world.

It appears that with this sum of Rs. 3 crores and the ways and means advance of Rs. 2½ crores in 1942-43 we are faced with a small balance of Rs. 5½ crores. The advances this time carry interest at 2 per cent. Why? I find from the Red Book, page 85, that the rate of interest on the 18th June, 1943, was 1½ per cent. From the 10th July to 21st October, 1943, it was 1 1/8 per cent. and why has this rate of interest suddenly gone up to 2 per cent.? Is it because of the solvency of our treasury, the financial credit of the province in the open market or the prodigality of our Hon'ble Finance Minister? Then, Sir, at page 84 we have not been told anything as to whether or not cash credit advances from the Imperial Bank of India to the extent of 25 crores bear any interest. If not are these advances interest free? If the advances are interest free, then no question arises. If not interest free, I should like to ask the Hon'ble Finance Minister what would be the rate of interest payable on the cash credit advance of Rs. 25 crores and when?

My honourable friend's resolution is wonderful. He has moved that a sum of Rs. 5,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "22—Interest on Debt and Other Obligations". This may have led, I will not say misled because in that case I shall be discourteous to the Chair, this may have misled the Hon'ble Speaker to fix five minutes for discussion on this important item. It is not a question of Rs. 5,000 at all.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Five minutes' time is not fixed in this matter.

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I am glad that it is not so in this matter.

It is not a question of Rs. 5,000 at all. It deals with lakhs and crores of rupees and on this account the Civil Supplies Department showed in another place a small deficit of Rs. 5 crores and a half for the present year, and I am confident that this deficit will double up in the next year without alleviating the miseries of the people of this province.

Sir, I have finished within the time allotted.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no. You can take any length of time We have got one hour at our disposal.

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: I am very gratefnl to you Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I do not think any useful purpose will be served by my prolonging the agonies of the Hon'ble Finance Minister. He may choose to give a reply or he may not. I shall resume my seat. Thank you very much, Sir, for the kindness shown to me.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 5,000 under the head "22—Interest on Debt and other Obligations" be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a dicsussion about the wasteful and burdensome methods adopted in raising funds for rice and wheat purchase schemes.

Sir, a study of the red book (pages 84 and 85) will show the various methods by which the Government of Bengal have been obtaining money for various purposes apart from the revenues. We have two broad heads, one under "Floating Debt" and the other under "Loans from Central Government". Under "Floating Debt" we have ways and means advances and treasury bills. These are the two normal heads that we are acquainted with and a third head has been recently added, viz., "Cash credit advances from the Imperial Bank of India". As the previous speaker has already explained, there is under this head a provision of about Rs. 20 crores in the coming year, to be more definite, there was a provision of Rs. 20,21 lakhs in the current year and a provision of Rs. 19 crores next year, the total being Rs. 39,21 lakhs. This is one of the items which I want to invite your attention to and I beg to suggest that it has been wasteful and this method has been burdensome to the province of Bengal. On page 85, we have loans from Central Government scheduled and stated under this head in two items, rice purchase loan and wheat purchase loan which account for Rs. 5,50 lakhs in the current year for rice purchase and Rs. 1,50 lakhs for wheat purchase. That is all that we have for these two items. It has been stated that the Government of India advances would carry an interest of 2 per cent. We do not know what rate of interest has been settled for the Imperial Bank of India's cash credit advances. It is not shown. That is what I complain about.

But, Sir, from a statement under the Demand for Grant No. 11, it appears that the interest on cash credit advances from the Imperial Bank of India would amount to Rs. 20 lakhs. This is a cash credit advance and it can be presumed that it would have a very short life for the current year because as and when the money would be collected by sale it would be credited to Government account in the Imperial Bank of India. The total amount outstanding after repayment in 1944-45 would be nearly Rs. 12 crores. The amount outstanding on the other account would be Rs. 15 crores. We can find from this on an average of, say, 2 months' outstanding for these loans that the cash credit advances from the Imperial Bank of India would be involving a rate of interest of nearly 4 per cent. We would like to know what exactly the figure is because the Government must have——

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: What would you like to know?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The rate of interest that you are paying the Imperial Bank of India for the cash credit advances, if any. My submission is that the whole thing could have been managed otherwise. The normal channels of trade have been financing the movement of foodgrains throughout and it would not have been impossible for the Government to harness normal channels to maintain sufficient quantities of food reserves for the province and also a regular flow thereof. We were told at one stage that the Government's chief agent that was appoined never had any advance given at all. The Hon'ble Minister in charge of Civil Supplies stated that Messrs. Ispahani & Co. invested large sums themselves and that they did not require any advance from Government at all. I believe that he was either talking through his hat when he stated this or he did not actually know what arrangement was going to be made. If I take his statement at its face value, then we cannot reconcile the payment of interest for Government's having to find money for the same. Large quantities of foodgrains were imported into the province and straightaway distributed through various agencies. If Government had made proper arrangements for a quick distribution through well-selected and financially solvent parties throughout the province, they could easily harness enough financial resources of the whole province to meet the entire obligation for purchase of rice, *aman* and *aus*, and also for other foodgrains, wheat products and others. It is really beyond us to ascertain why Government chose the other way to obtain money on loans from the Government of India and when the Government of India refused to advance any further loans as in the latter part of the current year and in the coming year why at all Government went in for this cash credit arrangement with the Imperial Bank of India.

There was yet another method by which Government could have raised funds. That was through an issue of loans. The Government of Bengal probably is fully aware that the money market today is very favourable to any proposal for raising funds. The market can easily find Rs. 20 or Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 crores or such amount as the Government wanted for purposes of their purchases and such loans would not involve Government in expenses of more than 2 to 2½ per cent. as far as we can guess from the present condition of the money market. This loan would have enabled Government not merely to finance the rice and wheat purchase schemes but would also enable them to meet the deficit that Government have to face now and for which various burdensome taxation measures are proposed. My own submission is that in the first place Government have failed to carry sufficient weight with the Government of India to exact from them larger contribution towards Bengal's financial relief. The extraordinary expenses that Bengal had to incur during the last year and is likely to incur during the current year are largely, if not entirely, due to the war conditions. Even the famine is directly attributable to the conditions created by the war and also to inflation. We feel, Sir, that the Government of Bengal ought to have pooled all the resources in this province. And all parties, I presume, would gladly agree to lend their support to the Finance Minister in that respect to press the Government of India for sharing the bulk of these additional expenses. In case the Government of India were not disposed to meet our legitimate demand, the only honest course for the

Government of Bengal would have been openly to declare that they would not be a party to this kind of bleeding the people of Bengal. It would have created probably a first class constitutional crisis, but in that crisis if the present Ministry chooses to take an active part, we at least of this side of the House assure him our fullest support. The Government of India have no business at all to claim any interest on the amount advanced for our rice and wheat purchase schemes. It is well known how as a result of the failure of the Government of India itself to supply the quota allotted to this province during different stages the Government of Bengal had ultimately to rush in for large purchases on its own account in other provinces. In the circumstances the responsibility for failure to secure enough rice for the province in due time really lies with the Government of India and not with the Government of Bengal. The money that was required subsequently was, therefore, rightly to be found by the Government of India and I really cannot understand why the Government of Bengal would be required to pay any interest for these advances.

With regard to the wastefulness, Sir, I have yet another point to invite your attention to. We have found that large quantities of foodgrains have been purchased, some of which have not reached this province: they have been lying in other provinces either, as alleged, due to transport difficulty or, what is probably more true, due to certain bungling arrangements by the purchasing agents who knowing full well that the respective Provincial Governments were not prepared to release the movement of these foodgrains from their provinces, rushed in with a view to enjoy a large amount of unearned profit. I know at least of some of the instances that have taken place in the province of Orissa. There the Government agents made hasty and peremptory purchases at comparatively low rates, knowing full well that the Government there was not prepared to release these quantities for transport out of the province, and large quantities are still lying in Orissa on account of the Government of Bengal's Chief Agent. I do not know if any money has been advanced on such purchases as well. If purchases were permitted in other provinces on the Government of Bengal's account and money was paid for the same, the tax-payer of Bengal has the right to know why that rice was paid for before actual delivery was made to the Government of Bengal here in Bengal and before any particle from the same could go to feed the hungry millions of this province.

There are also large quantities of rice and paddy purchased and stored at different centres throughout the province which are lying for a pretty long time virtually immobilised. Some time ago the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Civil Supplies stated that large stacks of paddy and rice for people were stored on the platform at various stations on the Khulna-Jessore line and could not be moved out of those areas because of transport difficulties. In reply to a question asked in the Central Legislature by Mr. K. C. Neogy, the Hon'ble Member in charge of War Transport, very categorically stated that there was no truth whatever in this allegation by Bengal's Civil Supply Minister; and he stated that so far as the railways were concerned, no requisition was ever made for the movement of those quantities of rice and paddy from such stations. In the circumstances, such rice and paddy

have very largely deteriorated in quality and have practically gone unfit for human consumption. It is now understood that some quantity of that rice and paddy was offered for sale to local people and that the local people refused to offer any price that the Government was expecting: the result had been a deadlock for a long time, and ultimately a Calcutta dealer has, it is understood, come forward to buy up the whole lot at a very nominal price. The loss that is involved in this transaction and in similar other transactions throughout the province must be enormous. If we have to foot a bill for such losses—losses due not to any inherent difficulty which could not have been averted but losses due to the utter incompetence, inefficiency, thoughtlessness and probably corrupt methods of the Civil Supplies Department—it is only fair that the tax-payer of Bengal should not be made to suffer for all this bungling and for all these methods of burdensome approach to collect rice and paddy.

We are now faced with still another problem. We find that the Government have been procuring paddy and rice at different centres and they have employed certain big agents for respective areas. The plea was that these big agents have got better financial resources and will be in a better position to organise the procurement. If that is really correct, then we would like to know why the Government has to foot a further bill. Let the big purchasers make their own arrangement for financing the procurement. They are liberally paid for and if Government want to distribute the same, let the distribution also be quick and ready so that immediately they distribute the same, the big chief agents may reimburse themselves of the money that they advance. I submit, Sir, that in both these respects, that is, in respect of loan obtained from the Government of India on payment of interest as well as in respect of the arrangement with the Imperial Bank for cash credit advances, Government have followed a policy which is open to serious objection and the burden of Rs. 57,59,000 which has to be thrown on the poor peasantry and the poor people of Bengal could have been easily if not completely avoided at least largely reduced if steps other than these were taken.

I would conclude by inviting the attention of the House to the figures of interest on debt and other obligations that we have had to bear from the year 1937-38 to the budget of 1944-45 In the year 1937-38, when we first began to work the new constitution, we were a gainer to the extent of Rs. 7,44,000 because we got certain remissions from the previous year's carry-over. In 1940-41 the amount of interest paid was Rs. 18 lakhs, in 1941-42, Rs. 19,45,000, in 1942-43, Rs. 23,14,000, the revised of 1943-44 provided for Rs. 36,56,000 and the budget of 1944-45 provides a big figure of Rs. 57,59,000. This amount is more than many nation-building departments' provisions in the budget.

With these words I commend my motion for acceptance.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Mr. Goswami.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir,——

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, I wanted to speak.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry, I have already asked the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: That does not matter. Many times many people have been asked and others have been granted opportunity to speak.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am very sorry to say that Whips of all the parties——

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I have caught your eye and having done that nobody can have precedence over me. I have the right to speak.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, will you please sit down? Let me explain the whole situation. We expect for smooth running of the business of the House that Whips of different parties should be active in their movement and should be quick in their decision. Well, today of all days I have found no names on my table from any of the Whips of any party; so I concluded motions will be moved and the reply will be given. I consulted the Hon'ble Minister at the outset and he told me very plainly that he will not take more than 5 or 6 minutes. So I thought there was no speaker from your side. I would have been very glad if anybody came in time from your side.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, I did go to you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You did not come in time.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I want to lodge my protest. In the other demand some 30 or 35 speakers spoke from the other side and none from this side except the Minister. I beg of you to give me time. I am ready to speak and smash every argument that has been brought before the House by the Opposition and now you command me to keep quiet. How is this side of the House going to express its views? I wish you to convey this protest to the Speaker. If a Whip does not go and whip us up into our duties have I lost my right? I have as a matter of fact, caught the eye of the Chair. You are looking at me and I am looking at you. I have a right to speak. Under the constitution of any House the Hon'ble Minister must wait. I shall not give way today. It is not the right method of debate.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am very sorry, you could not catch my eye in time.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I caught your eye, I caught your ear, I caught your everything. (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, Dr. Sanyal's speech was to the extent of 90 per cent. devoted to the policy of the Civil Supplies Department. I think he would realise that it would be inappropriate on my part to usurp the function of the Hon'ble Minister in regard to the Civil Supplies Department policy which he is more competent to deal with.

I think the only question relating to which I am called upon to give an answer is with regard to our cash credit arrangement with the Imperial Bank of India. The arrangement is for a whole calendar year—1st of January, 1944, to 31st December, 1944,—and the rate of interest is 2 per

cent. I think that is very economical. Any other trade method would have cost us much more.

As regards Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee's speech, I do not think it needs any reply as it was full of whimsicalities and full of cheap humour; and the only question that he seemed seriously to ask me to answer is whether the Aman Procurement Scheme is in progress. Sir, it is in progress.

The motion of Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee that the demand of Rs. 5,000 for expenditure under the head "22—Interest on Debt and Other Obligations" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 5,000 for expenditure under the head "22—Interest on Debt and Other Obligations" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra Goswami that a sum of Rs. 5,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "22—Interest on Debt and Other Obligations" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 6-45 p.m. till 3-30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 21st March, 1944, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 21st March, 1944, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble MR. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 13 Hon'ble Ministers and 210 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Closing of Campbell Medical School sine die in November, 1943.

***181. Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Medical, Public Health and Local Self-Government Departments be pleased to state—

(*i*) what are the circumstances that led to the closing of the Campbell Medical School *sine die* in the last week of November, 1943; and

(*ii*) what arrangements, if any, have been made to arrange an early reopening of the institution?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the students of the institution have been complaining for several months past about—

(*i*) the inadequacy of the arrangements for teaching;

(*ii*) the unsatisfactory character of their lodging arrangements; and

(*iii*) absence of adequate A.R.P. work in the institution?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps Government have taken to improve the teaching and lodging arrangements of the students and A.R.P. work of the Campbell Medical School before the students went on strike in the third week of November and after the same?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that a strong feeling of resentment and disappointment exists amongst the student community of Calcutta generally and also amongst a large section of the public on account of the steps taken by Government in dealing with the grievances of the students of the Campbell Medical School?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) (*i*) On 18th November, 1943, the Surgeon-General received a communication from the students of the Campbell Medical School setting forth a number of alleged grievances and threatening a crisis in the form of a general demonstration if a favourable reply was not received by November 21st. On 22nd November, 1943, the Surgeon-General gave an interview to two of the students' leaders and informed them that if they sent another communication couched in proper language and tone, Government would cause an enquiry to be made into their grievances as soon as possible. In spite of this, the students went on

strike from the evening of the 22nd. On the 26th November, a press-note was issued stating that Government desired it to be known that all students who wished to return to work at the school should do so on the morning of Monday, November the 29th; on that day no student came to work. Government waited for three more weeks but still no student came to work and on the 20th of December, Government declared the school to be closed *sine die*.

(*ii*) The school has been reopened from January 27th.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) No.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*a*)(*i*) where it is stated that the Surgeon-General received a communication on the 18th November, 1943, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the date of that communication?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The representation forwarded does not bear any date. It was received on the 18th.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the students sent it by registered post?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: It might be, but the representation as well as the advance copy to the Hon'ble Minister were received both by the office and by the Hon'ble Minister on the 18th.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to alleged grievances, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what those grievances were?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The grievances as alleged by them were bad teaching mainly due to frequent transfer of teachers, no messing during the period of food shortage in 1943, insufficient shelter and imposition of fine, etc.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is there any record of the interview that took place between the students' leaders and the Surgeon-General on November 22nd, where it is specifically mentioned that the students were asked to resubmit their petition in a different language?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Yes, there is a record.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is there any record where they were assured that an enquiry would be made into their grievances as soon as possible?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: It was communicated to the students formally by the Superintendent of the Campbell Medical Hospital.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: When was that formally communicated? Can you quote the letter or the communication number?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: From the report of the Superintendent it is found that he communicated it to the students verbally.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Has the Hon'ble Minister's attention been drawn to the fact that the students categorically denied both these statements, namely, that the Surgeon-General assured them an enquiry if they resubmitted their petition and that an assurance was given about early attention regarding their grievances?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Information of the Government is rather contrary. The students admitted that the Superintendent informed them of this fact.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister in a position to quote any document or letter or communication from the students substantiating this statement?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No, there is nothing in writing.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Has the Hon'ble Minister's attention been drawn to a press statement of the students which stated that the Surgeon-General's statement was not in consonance with facts?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No. Government is not aware of any such thing.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the students were at no stage given any assurance that their grievances would be looked into?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I have already stated that students were asked to withdraw the representation that was made to the Surgeon-General and an advance copy of which was sent to the Hon'ble Minister, and to resubmit their representation couched in proper language.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is there any record of that request?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Yes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly quote the date or the number of that communication?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: As I have already stated the intimation was given to the students by the Superintendent verbally.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Even if the students say "no", still you will maintain that.

(No reply.)

With reference to answer (*b*), viz., "No", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if his attention was drawn on the floor of the House during a previous session of the Assembly to these matters of inadequacy of arrangements for teaching?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Which session?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In the July session when budget was discussed.

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that during that budget session the Hon'ble Minister did give an assurance that matters would be looked into?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The students approached some of the Ministers including the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the department and their main grievance put forward before them was about the transfer of a particular doctor.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: As has been already revealed from the replies to the supplementary questions that the grievances of the students consisted of three things, namely, absence of adequate A.R.P. arrangements, absence of proper lodging arrangements and inadequacy of teaching arrangements, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why then this answer "No" was drafted to question (*b*)?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: "No" means generally they have no grievance worth the name. Their main grievance was transfer of a particular teacher concerned.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why in view of the fact that in their application or petition, however badly couched it may be, specifically these three grievances were mentioned, the answer "No" is given?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The answer "no" means the grievances were not genuine.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in the petition made by the students any reference——

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: On a point of order, Sir. Is it in order to discuss this question relating to a settled and finished matter at such length?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is no point of order, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes. If there be any discussion on the question then only a point of order can be raised.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action has been taken by Government to improve the teaching, lodging and the A.R.P. arrangements in the Campbell Medical School since then?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: With regard to shelter there is sufficient A.R.P. shelter. With regard to lodging arrangements, students at present have no complaint. With regard to teaching arrangements, there have already been made some transfers and some improvement has been made.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Am I to understand that no additional arrangements have been made for A.R.P. protection?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: There were already sufficient A.R.P. arrangements.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In your opinion?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: In the opinion of Government.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state where the A.R.P. shelter actually is?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: In the verandah with baffle walls and on the ground outside some slit trenches.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the only proper shelter is below a staircase with baffle walls round the same?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With regard to lodging arrangements, have any new arrangements been made since?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, you have already taken 12 minutes. This is budget session and I think if you confine yourself to very important questions it would be better.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am only eliciting information.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on what basis he concludes that the students no longer have any grievances about lodging arrangements?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Government was ready to rent a house for the lodging of the students and invited students to come forward with applications for accommodation to be provided in the rented house but nobody responded.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What was the rate of rent?

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot allow that because it is too detailed a cross-examination.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I submit that the answer is false.

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot say so. It is not permissible.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the students' feeding arrangements while on duty in the Campbell Medical School have been attended to?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Sir, just now Dr. Sanyal has said that the answer was false. Is that parliamentary language?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not. I did not allow that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I did not say that the Minister was telling a lie.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. There should be no discussion about that.

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Will the honourable member please repeat the question?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any arrangements have been made to provide suitable food to the students in the premises of the Campbell Medical School while they are on duty?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The students have not asked for such things.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Is it proper when the Hon'ble Minister makes a reply to characterise that reply as false? Dr. Sanyal is asking a further question to declare false again the reply which may be given.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. The whole thing arises, as I have said repeatedly, on account of the fact that there is a tendency to discuss questions and answers. That is absolutely prohibited under the rules. I hope there will be no discussion about questions and answers.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*d*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that public meetings were held both of students of Calcutta in general as well as of the public of Calcutta in general condemning the action of Government and recording their resentment?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I have nothing to add to the reply already given.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact or not that public resentment was also expressed in the columns of newspapers in Calcutta?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I have already said that I have nothing to add.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on what basis this answer "no" was derived?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I have nothing to add.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is because it is a false reply.

Mr. SPEAKER: You must withdraw the word "false".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I withdraw the word "false" and I say it is not true. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government's attention was invited to the strikes of students in general of other institutions in Calcutta in sympathy with the students of the Campbell Medical School?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: How is that, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not called upon to give reason.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if representations were made to the Government by students of various institutions and also from the authorities of educational institutions that this matter was agitating the minds of students and unless settled might lead to serious repercussions?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No such representation was made to Government.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that political opponents of Government were making political capital of false grievances of students?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Depletion of cattle resources in Bengal and Government measures for protection.

*182. **Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH SEN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department aware—

(*i*) of the existence of a feeling of concern in the minds of the public for the depletion of the cattle resources in the Province during the past two years; and

(*ii*) of the rise in prices of beef to abnormal heights which have led to large-scale purchases of prime cattle on the basis of these prices in the rural areas?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government are considering the desirability of ascertaining the number of such cattle purchased or slaughtered for the military and the prisoners of war in the Province during 1942-43.

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, Government have taken or propose to take to protect the live-stock wealth of the Province?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hossain): (*a*) (*i*) Government are aware that there has been appreciable loss of cattle due to disease, starvation and slaughter for food.

(*ii*) Government are aware that the price of beef has risen high and that prime cattle have been sold in rural areas: they have no information that these sales have been on a large scale.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The matter is engaging the attention of Government.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why they are reluctant to state the number, with reference to question (*b*)?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Because it is a military secret which cannot be given out.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will consider the desirability of putting a stop to the cow slaughter in view of the fact that bullocks fit for cultivation and cows with milk are gradually diminishing in numbers?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Government is considering what steps can be taken to conserve the animal population of the province.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have considered the desirability of taking a census of the existing cattle strength?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: No, it will be a huge affair.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the points or lines upon which Government's attention is being paid?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: The other day I have stated that we are contemplating two meatless days in a week and we are also considering other ways of stopping the slaughter of cattle, if possible.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: With reference to answer (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether owing to the depletion of cattle resources the price of cattle employed in agriculture has gone up very high?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Yes.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there are prisoners of war in Bengal, and, if so, what are their numbers?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if one of the causes of shortage of cattle in Bengal is stoppage of supply from Bihar?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Yes; that is a fact.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken up till now for the supply of cattle to agriculturists?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Government is carrying on correspondence with the Governments of Bihar and of Central Provinces for lifting the ban so that cattle may be imported from those provinces into Bengal.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any further delay in the supply of cattle to the agriculturists will lead to their inability to sow their next crop in time?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: That may be the case in exceptional circumstances but not generally.

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: What are the short-range and long-range policies that Government are pursuing in fostering the supply of cattle?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I have already stated that as a short-range policy we are trying to replenish the cattle from other provinces and also to conserve the present cattle population of the province. As regards our long-range policy, we are trying to import into Bengal bulls from other provinces, and are considering starting experiments on artificial insemination.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why the other provinces have placed a ban?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Because they apprehend shortage of cattle in their own provinces.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Grow-More Food Committee of the Government advised the Government to take a census of the cattle strength of the province?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: No, it did not.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that the bullock cart which is the only means of communication in the mufassil is practically no more to be seen for want of cattle?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I am not aware that there has been stoppage of bullock cart conveyance but I know that it has been affected to some extent by the shortage of bullocks.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of taking steps within the month of Chaitra for the supply of cattle to agriculturists?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I do not think it will be possible to do so and therefore we are trying to give agricultural loans to agriculturists for purchasing cattle in their own areas.

Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider if the advance of a loan will hardly serve the purpose of the agriculturist when there is so much dearth of cattle in the province?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: There are cattle in the mufassil still offered for sale in most of the districts in Eastern and Northern Bengal and with this advance of money the agriculturist who is in need of plough cattle will be able to purchase the same.

Mr. ABUL HOSAIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that there is scarcity of fodder everywhere in Bengal?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a good number of cattle are still being sent away to Assam from Bengal?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I do know.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: What is the proposal in the contemplation of Government with regard to the grant of loan to the agriculturist for the purchase of cattle?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: The Collectors have been authorised to advance loans and a certain amount has been allotted to each Collector, especially of districts where there have been cattle epidemic and they have been asked to give loans to agriculturists who are actually in need of loan for the purchase of cattle and they have been instructed to see that cattle are actually purchased.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state by what data the Collector will determine who are the most deserving persons for getting these loans?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is going too much into details.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government has ascertained about the sufficiency of fodder in the province so that the cattle strength may not further be depleted for want of food?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Government has been aware of fodder difficulties and Government is trying to do its best in the matter. As a matter of fact a Bill is being drafted which is to be called the Bengal Pasture Bill for the improvement of pasture in the province.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Government consider the desirability of setting up an enquiry as to whether cattle are still being sent from Bengal to Assam?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: If the honourable member so desires, we may make an enquiry.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps have actually been taken to ascertain the scale of slaughter of cattle in this province?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: We have practically decided in favour of stoppage of all slaughter for two days in the week.

Mr. A. F. STARK: I submit, Sir, that was not my question. What I wanted to know, Sir, was how Government have ascertained the scale of slaughter of cattle in this province—by what means and how they have done it.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Government have taken statistics of slaughter houses in Calcutta and of bigger slaughter houses in other municipal towns also. The figures that they have obtained from the slaughter houses in Calcutta indicate that there has been a fifty per cent. increase in slaughter in all the slaughter houses.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(answer to which was laid on the table)

Cost of construction of evacuees' shelters in Hooghly district.

86. Mr. SUKUMAR DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

(*i*) the names of places in Hooghly district where evacuees' shelters were constructed;

(*ii*) the numbers and nature of such structures; and

(*iii*) the date and cost of such construction in each place?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether—

(*i*) any plan and estimate were prepared;

(*ii*) if so, by whom;

(*iii*) the amount of such estimates;

(*iv*) any tenders were called for such construction; and

(*v*) if so, by whom?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether—

(*i*) any repair work in respect of such structures were undertaken;

(*ii*) if so, what are the dates of repair of such structures;

(*iii*) the costs of repairs in each case; and

(*iv*) any tenders were called for such purposes?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the nature and quantities of articles of (1) food, and (2) medicines purchased for storing the evacuees' shelters;

(*ii*) the costs incurred in each case;

(*iii*) the number of time the articles of food had to be replaced;

(*iv*) the cost of such replacement in each time; and

(*v*) the date of such replacement?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea): (*a*) (*i*) (1) Ilchoba, (2) Bhastara, (3) Mahanad, (4) Senhat, (5) Bhanderhaty, (6) Pandua, (7) Dhaniakhally, (8) Chandra, (9) Kulepara, (10) Oschitpore, (11) Bandel, (12) Chanditala, (13) Haripal, (14) Seakhala, including Sepaigachi, (15) Singur, (16) Champadanga, (17) Kamarapukur, (18) Arambagh.

(*ii*) Shelter sheds 460, dining sheds and other sheds 784 approximately. Sheds constructed with walls of split bamboos plastered with mud with thatched roof and at some places kitchens were made with pantile roofs.

(*iii*) (A) Early in 1942.

(B) (1) Rs.9,600, (2) Rs.9,600, (3) Rs.9,558, (4) Rs.5,514, (5) Rs.2,059, (6) Rs.8,196, (7) Rs.9,760, (8) Rs.3,500, (9) Rs.13,122, (10) Rs.4,981, (11) Rs.51,954, (12) Rs.8,634, (13) Rs.8,560, (14) Rs.9,192, (15) Rs.4,872, (16) Rs.3,810, (17) Rs.15,545, (18) Rs.15,176.

(*b*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) By District Engineer, Hooghly, according to the sanctioned scale of Government Revenue Department in case of original estimates. By District Engineer, Hooghly, with sanction of Government who had the same checked by Communications and Works Department in case of major repairs, 1943.

(*iii*) Rs.2,025 per unit of 500 evacuees *plus* Rs.450 per camp.

(*iv*) No local contractors were employed.

(*v*) Does not arise.

(*c*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Once in October, 1942, for damages made by cyclone in respect of certain camps. Next in September, 1943.

		October, 1942.	September, 1943.
		Rs.	Rs.
(*iii*)	(1) Ilchoba	1,703	14,346
	(2) Bhastara	3,475	13,789
	(3) Mahanad	735	16,413
	(4) Senhat	796	6,917
	(5) Bhanderhaty	2,836	5,362
	(6) Pandua	684	10,451
	(7) Dhaniakhally	4,137	20,555
	(8) Chandra	103	8,004
	(9) Kulepara	298	25,261
	(10) Oschitpore	145	7,923
	(11) Chanditala	2,228	18,560
	(12) Haripal	2,329	27,301
	(13) Seakhala	3,035	22,894
	(14) Singur	745	12,722

(*iv*) No. Works taken up by local contractors, pending sanction to the estimates drawn by the District Engineer, Hooghly, by Government after scrutiny by Communications and Works Department, in cases of repairs of September, 1943.

(*d*) (*i*) (1) Rice, *chira*, *gur*, mustard oil, *dal*, etc., at 3 chittaks rice, 2 chittaks *chira*, 1 chittak *gur*, ¼ chittak oil, 2 chittaks *dal*, etc., per head for one week for about 92,000 evacuees.

(2) Common medicines according to indents made by Civil Surgeon and District Health Officer, Hooghly.

(*ii*) (1) Food—Rs.1,34,601.

(2) Medicines—Rs.18,923.

(*iii*) *Chira* and *gur* only replaced once.

(*iv*) Rs.26,436.

(*v*) Between January, 1943; and February, 1943.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With regard to the statement published, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what check was kept to see that in the construction of the original evacuees' camps no unnecessary waste of money took place?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: As I have already said in my answer (*c*)(*iv*), works were done under the supervision of the District Engineer.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That relates to repairs: that does not refer to original construction work. My question is, what check was devised by Government to see that no unnecessary or wasteful expenditure was incurred?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Government thinks that the District Engineer is a perfectly trustworthy officer, though subsequently the estimates were checked by Communications and Works Department.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*iii*) (B) (11) where the amount shown for construction of one shed is Rs. 51,954 in Bandel and of which, being in his own district, the Hon'ble Minister has, I suppose, got personal knowledge, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the nature of the structure and what is the number of evacuees proposed to be housed in this building?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I cannot say offhand: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*b*)(*iv*) that no local contractors were employed, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state wherefrom were the contractors obtained?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I do not know personally—I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has got on record any reason for the non-employment of local contractors?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: For the simple reason that they were not available.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to the repair works done under (*c*)(*iii*) as shown in the statement, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how is it that the repair works cost nearly 50 per cent. more than the original works? For example, in item No. (1) Ilchoba—the original cost was Rs. 9,600, as you will notice from (*iii*)(*B*), whereas the repair cost was Rs. 14,346 in 1943 and Rs. 1,700 in 1942, that is, the total repair cost was more than Rs. 16,000. Is there any explanation for that?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: For the reason that some of these constructions were entirely spoiled and ruined by the cyclone and the cost of materials went up by several times since the original construction.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Am I to understand that there was rebuilding and not repairing?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I cannot say offhand the reason of this case but in some of these cases, the buildings were completely destroyed and there was, in fact, reconstruction.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if his attention has been invited to practically all these items from Nos. (1) to (5) and also to subsequent items where large amounts have been spent on repair work? For example, in item No. (7) Dhaniakhally, the original cost was Rs. 9,760 whereas the repairs in two years cost Rs. 24,692?

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, you are giving instances. I think the whole thing has been practically answered.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I want the reason.

Mr. SPEAKER: He has said it may be due to various things. He cannot say offhand but it may be that some of them were destroyed completely. That covers the entire thing. If you put one item after another,

it will take a very long time. There has been a larger-expenditure on repairs than the original cost.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: "Larger" is a mild term. This is scandalously large.

Mr. SPEAKER: May be, but the statement is there.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, the original cost was Rs. 9,760 but the repair costs were Rs. 24,692.

Mr. SPEAKER: I see but you cannot go item by item. That will take a very long time.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, let me take one instance. What is the explanation for Rs. 25,000 being spent on item No. (7) Dhaniakhally, whereas the original construction cost only Rs. 9,760?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I cannot say the details offhand but probably there may have been extensions and, as I have already stated, the cost of articles went up by several times.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer *(c)(iv)*, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no tenders were called when such a large amount was involved?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I cannot say offhand, but probably the works were very urgent and there was no time for calling for tenders.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The question in *(c)(iv)* was why no tenders were called for.

Mr. SPEAKER: He has said that probably that was due to——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: "Probably" will not do.

Mr. SPEAKER: That was due to the urgency of the work. You may not be satisfied but he has given that answer.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the result of the scrutiny by the Communications and Works Department, as mentioned in *(c)(iv)*?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: They checked the bills, examined the construction and passed the bills.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that the Communications and Works Department on scrutiny found that there was evidence of corruption in the matter of distribution of this work?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: No.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer *(d)*(2) regarding the quantities of food stored amounting to Rs. 1,34,601, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the value of *chira* and *gur* which had to be thrown away as they got rotten?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I want notice.

Mr. Speaker's observation on the point of privilege raised by Mr. Fazlur Rahman.

Mr. SPEAKER: On Saturday last I assured the House that I would give my decision on the point of privilege raised by Mr. Fazlur Rahman. The matter is not yet ready and I will give my decision as soon as the matter is ready.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I also raised a point of privilege on which you said you would give your decision later on.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What is the point of privilege?

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It does arise, Sir. You propose to give a ruling and I most respectfully submit that you have no right or power given to decide on the privileges of members nor can you give any ruling on them at any stage.

Mr. SPEAKER: It does not arise. When I speak, you will then rise and say that it is so and so.

Message from the Bengal Legislative Council.

Secretary read the following message:—

"That the Bengal Legislative Council at its meeting held on the 20th March, 1944, agreed to the Bengal Finance (Sales Tax) Amendment Bill, 1944, without any amendments."

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

29—Police.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 2,84,74,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "29—Police".

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,84,74,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the insecure life in rural Bengal due to inaction and insufficient patrols of the police.

The object of the motion is very clear in the motion itself. In the Budget Statement the Hon'ble Finance Minister while advancing arguments for his taxation measures said that better advantages will follow from this increased taxation although we found no amount of this anticipated income earmarked for the increased security or any of the items he enumerated. Rural Bengal has become very much insecure. Commission of crimes of various kinds has increased to an enormous extent. Daring dacoities, robberies, thefts and burglaries are of almost everyday occurrence. People are not safe under their roof, within their four walls, nor outside on land and on water. They are waylaid while passing on the roads and passing through the rivers. They are waylaid, robbed, looted, belaboured and beaten. Thousands and thousands of maunds of paddy and rice were looted at several places in East Bengal from boats which were at anchor either at some *hat* or were on their way to a *hat* for sale of their commodities. There

was no help, there was none nearby, no police available to approach for help, and these foreigners had to pay penalty and lose much. Travellers were not safe. People who were coming to the subdivisional or district headquarters for their various businesses were waylaid, attacked, beaten and robbed. Sir, such is the condition of rural Bengal. There would have been much less crime in this respect, had Government taken action for prevention of crime by an extensive police patrol. At present police patrol is quite insufficient. When an improvement is asked for, the reply comes from Government that there is not sufficient force. Sir, rural police, I mean the chaukidars and dafadars, are so much overworked with their municipal duties that they have very little time for their police duties. Moreover, they are so very ill-paid that they have to spend some time in earning their livelihood from some other source.

There are village defence parties which have been disorganised and not functioning well as Government have not provided for their equipment and made other arrangements for them. Recently, Home Guard Organisations have been formed everywhere and officers have been appointed on fat salaries, but these are not organisations for the purpose of preventing crime. Government could have reduced the number of crimes if police outposts had been started and through the co-operation of such organisations patrols to an extensive extent had been arranged in rural areas. Sir, this is on the preventive line.

If we have to look at the detective line, there also the state of affairs fills us with much despair. The rural police is very slow to take action. Even on receipt of the first information about an offence they are very slow to move to the locality. Corruption and bribery are rampant there, and there is a third thing responsible for the laches of the police in this respect, namely, the party politics of the Muslim League and the Muslim League Ministry. According to this politics, a thief is not a thief, a burglar is not a burglar if he holds a two-anna membership ticket of the Muslim League. In February last a dealer along with others were caught red-handed with 15 maunds of sugar and a few tins of kerosene near Gopalganj thana. They were handed over to the Gopalganj thana police with the stolen properties, and although today is the 21st day of March—I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to this fact—that not to speak of any enquiry, investigation or detection not even a first information report has been drawn up because that man could show a two-anna Muslim League membership ticket. The Sub-Inspector of Police could not take any action as he would be a victim at the hands of higher authorities through the efforts of the local office-bearers of the Muslim League. There was another case of Sadar subdivision where a dealer himself lodged first information that his godown had been looted and that there was a big burglary at his godown; and at night he himself dishonestly removed his goods to his house and from there he was removing some of the articles by boat. Unfortunately for him, the village chaukidars and daffadars were on patrol at the time and on their challenging and raising a hue and cry the villagers came to the scene and some of them caught the dealer red-handed with the articles——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY: মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়—আমি প্রস্তাব করছি যে পলিশের ব্যয়-বরাদ্দ থেকে পুলিশের জুলুম বিশেষ করে মেদিনীপুর জেলার জুলুম সম্বন্ধে বিতর্ক উত্থাপনের জন্য ১ শত টাকা ছাটাই করা হোক।

আমরা পুলিশের ব্যয়-বরাদ্দ করছি বটে, মন্ত্রিগণ শাসন চালাবার দায়িত্ব বহন করছেন বটে কিন্তু নীতি ও শাসন চালাচ্ছেন চিরস্থায়ী চাকুরী বিভাগের কয়েকজন কর্ম্মচারী। ক্ষমতা তাঁদের, দায়িত্ব মন্ত্রীদের, পৃথিবীর সর্ব্বত্র তন্ন তন্ন করে খুঁজলেও আমাদের এই তথাকথিত পার্লিয়ামেণ্টের জুড়ি মিলবে না। এখানে কর্ম্মচারিগণই প্রকৃত প্রভু, মন্ত্রিগণ তাদের হাতের পুতুল মাত্র। সাধ্য কি তাঁদের প্রভুদের মতের বিরুদ্ধে চলেন তাহলে নকরী একদিনও থাকবে না। এই এসেমব্লী রঙ্গমঞ্চে আমরা বহু প্রকার অভিনয় করেছি কিন্তু শাসন ও নীতি যাঁদের চালাবার তাঁরা ঠিক চালিয়ে যাচ্ছেন। পুলিশের লোক ঘরেই আগুন লাগাক, নিরীহ গ্রামবাসিগণকে জলেই ডোবাক, রুটির বদলে লাঠি ও লাথিই মারুক, লুটতরাজের তাণ্ডবই চালাক, সাধ্য কি আমাদের তাদের বরাদ্দ বন্ধ করি। সময় সংক্ষেপ অতএব কেবল মেদিনীপুরের পুলিশের অত্যাচারের কয়েকটি কথা শুনুন। নির্ব্বিচারে ঘরে আগুন লাগাবার কথা সেদিন হোম মিনিষ্টার নিজে স্বীকার করেছিলেন। কোন্ আইন বলে এসব ঘটছে তা তিনি বলতে পারেন নি। কর্ম্মচারিগণ নাকি জানিয়েছেন যাঁদের ঘর জ্বালান হয়েছে তাঁরা কংগ্রেসী। কিন্তু কংগ্রেসীদের ঘর আগুন দিয়ে জ্বালিয়ে দিতে হবে এ নীতি আমরা বাংলা এসেমব্লীতে কোন দিন গ্রহণ করেছি বলে মনে পড়ে না। তবে মেদিনীপুরে শাসন বিভাগ কোন্ সাহসে এ কাজ করে? এসব নাকি এই মন্ত্রীদের আমলে ঘটেনি গত মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর আমলে হয়েছে। আচ্ছা, এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর আমলে যা ঘটেছে তার কিঞ্চিৎ শুনুন। মেদিনীপুরের সরকারী গুণ্ডারা নিশ্চয়ই তাদের গুণ্ডামীর সত্য বিবরণ হোম মিনিষ্টারকে পাঠিয়ে তাদের পাপের প্রায়শ্চিত্ত করে না। তাই হোম মিনিষ্টার অনেক কথা জানেন না।

মেদিনীপুরের সরকারী ক্ষমতার অপব্যবহারের সনাতন উপায় হচ্ছে স্পেশাল কনেষ্টবল নিযুক্ত করা। কংগ্রেসী কর্ম্মী যত কেন সম্ভ্রান্ত হোন না, যত অহিংসই হোন না, তাঁকে নানা প্রকারে নির্য্যাতন করতেই হবে। রাজনীতি ত্যাগ করে তাঁরা যদি বন্যা ও দুর্ভিক্ষপীড়িতদের সেবার কাজে মন দেন তাও তাঁদের করতে দেওয়া হবে না। গত বৎসর অক্টোবর মাসে তমলুকে মহেন্দ্র রিলিফ কমিটি কাজ আরম্ভ করেন। অক্টোবর ১৯৪৩ ও জানুয়ারীর মধ্যে এই কমিটি প্রায় এক লক্ষ টাকা সংগ্রহ করেন। এ ছাড়া চাউল ও আটা ১,২০৩ মণ, বীজ ২,১৪৩ মণ, কাপড় ১০ হাজার জোড়া, ঔষধ ১২ হাজার টাকার বিলি করেন। এঁদের ৮ জন কর্ম্মপরিষদ সভার সদস্যদের মধ্যে শ্রীপ্রসাদ প্রামাণিক, সম্পাদক, শ্রীরামচন্দ্র রায়, আফিস সম্পাদক এবং শ্রীরমেশচন্দ্র কর এই তিনজনকে স্পেশাল কনেষ্টবল হবার হুকুম দেওয়া হল। ১২ মাইল দূরে মহিষাদল থানায় প্রতিদিন হাজিরা দিতে হবে। ৮ ঘণ্টা ডিউটি দিতে হবে। দারোগা সাহেব দয়া করে যেখানে চিঠি পেঁৗছে দিতে বলবেন সেখানে পেঁৗছে দিতে হবে। নতুবা গ্রেপ্তার হতে হবে, সম্পত্তি বাজেয়াপ্ত হবে। এঁদের দু'জন কলিকাতায় রিলিফের কাজে অর্থ সংগ্রহ করছিলেন, একজন রক্তামাশায় ভুগছিলেন তবুও তাঁদের রেহাই নাই। প্রহ্লাদ বাবুকে গ্রেপ্তার করা হয়। ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট বাহাদুর ও এস-ডি-ও বাহাদুরের কাছে দরখাস্ত করতে কোন ফল হোল না—রিলিফের কাজ থাক বা যাক বয়ে গেল। এঁদের নিজের কাছে এসব কথা শুনেছি। এসব গত মন্ত্রীদের আমলের ঘটনা নয়—এখনি এসব ঘটছে।

১৯৪৪ সালের জানুয়ারী-ফেব্রুয়ারী মাসে তমলুক থানায় বাড়ী খানাতল্লাসীর ওজুহাতে পুলিশ নির্দ্দয়ভাবে মারপিট করেছে অন্ততঃ ২০ জনের উপর। এই মারপিট চলেছে ইউরোপীয়ান

এস-ডি-পি-ওর (সাবডিভিসনাল পুলিশ অফিসারের) উপস্থিতিতে। এই গুণ্ডামীর জন্যই কি আমরা পুলিশের ব্যয়-বরাদ্দ করছি?

গত ১৮ই ফেব্রুয়ারী নন্দীগ্রামে শ্রীগোবিন্দচন্দ্র সামন্তের বাড়ী তল্লাসের সময় মিলিটারী পুলিশ বাড়ীর সমস্ত সামগ্রী, তৈজসপত্র ধ্বংস করে এবং বিছানাপত্রের উপর প্রস্রাব করে। তাহার বাড়ীর প্রত্যেক পুরুষকে নৃশংসভাবে মারপিট করা হয়।

আমাদের সরকারী তোতাপাখীটি নাৎসী ও জাপানীদের বর্বরতার অনেক কথাই বলেন। কিন্তু মেদিনীপুরে পুলিশের অত্যাচার সে বর্বরতাকেও ছাড়িয়ে গেছে অথচ সে সম্বন্ধে তিনি একেবারে নীরব। আমাদের প্রাদেশিক স্বায়ত্ত-শাসনের আমলে যে বর্বরতা ঘটছে তা ফ্যাসিষ্ট অত্যাচারকে হার মানিয়েছে—কিন্তু তফাৎ এই যে ফ্যাসিষ্ট অত্যাচারের কথা পৃথিবীময় ঘোষিত হচ্ছে আর সংবাদপত্রের কণ্ঠরোধ করে আমাদের দেশের অত্যাচারের কথা আমরা কোথাও প্রকাশ হতে দিচ্ছি না।

মেদিনীপুরে গ্রামে গ্রামে পুলিশ এক অভিনব অত্যাচার চালাচ্ছে। ডিসেম্বর মাসে পুলিশ সুতাহাটা থানার হোগলবাড়িয়া গ্রামের ১৮ জন লোককে গ্রেপ্তার করে। রাত্রি ১টার সময় পৌষের দুরন্ত শীতে তাদের একটা পুকুরে ২ ঘণ্টা ধরে ডুবান হয়। তারপর পুলিশ গুণ্ডারা সেই অর্দ্ধমৃত লোকগুলিকে পাখার বাতাস করে। আমাদের ইউরোপীয়ান গৌরাঙ্গগণ কি বলেন? তাঁরা এই গরম দেশে ডিসেম্বর মাসে বিনামূল্যে এই রকম পাখার বাতাস খাবার সুযোগ নিতে রাজী আছেন কি? এই বিভৎস নাৎসী মার্কা অত্যাচার কেবল সুতাহাটা থানাতেই ঘটে নি। আরও অনেক জায়গায় ঘটেছে। গত জানুয়ারী মাসে মহিষাদল থানার রাজনগর, পানিসিতি, কটাটিকরী ও চাঁপি গ্রামের লোকদের উপরও এই পদ্ধতিতে অত্যাচার চালানো হয়েছে।

মেদিনীপুরে পুলিশ যে আগুন জ্বালিয়েছে তার কবল থেকে নিরীহ রাজভক্ত লোকও রেহাই পায় নি। রাজভক্তির দক্ষিণা দিতে হচ্ছে পুলিশের লুটতরাজে সর্বস্বান্ত হয়ে। মহিষাদল থানার খাঞ্চি গ্রামের শ্রীবিষ্ণুহরি দত্ত, এম-এস-সি, বি-টি, কলিকাতা স্কটিস চার্চ কলেজের অধ্যাপক। বিষ্ণুপুরে লাট সাহেবের অভ্যর্থনার সময় তিনি উপস্থিত ছিলেন। রাহা ওয়ার্ডসের এষ্টেটের নাবালকদের শিক্ষকতার কাজেও সরকার তাঁকে নিযুক্ত করেছিলেন। B. T. পড়ার সময় সন্তোষজনক পুলিশ রিপোর্টের আনুকূল্যে তিনি সরকারী বৃত্তি পান। এহেন ভদ্রলোককেও পুলিশের পাইকারী লুটতরাজের ফলে যে দণ্ড দিতে হয়েছে তার তুলনা হিটলারের দেশেও পাওয়া যাবে না। তার ছোট ভাই সতীশ রাজনৈতিক সন্দেহভাজন যদিও সকলেই জানে যে এই ভাইয়ের সঙ্গে কোন প্রকার সম্পর্ক তাঁর বর্তমান নাই। কিন্তু পুলিশের বাধা আইনে মেষশাবক যতই নির্দোষ হোক না কেন তার চৌদ্দ পুরুষকে নাকানী চুবানী খাওয়ানই সরকারী রেওয়াজ। বিষ্ণুবাবু এবং তাঁর পরিবারবর্গ এই বাধা আইনে যে খেসারত দিচ্ছেন সেই আইন ঠিকমত খাটালে পরমাত্মীয় নূরুদ্দীন সাহেবের বেসামাল অবস্থার জন্য খাজা নাজিমুদ্দীন সাহেবকেও খেসারত দিতে হয় (হাস্য)। ১৯৪২ এর অক্টোবরে পুলিশ বিষ্ণুহরি বাবুর গ্রামের বাড়ী তল্লাসীর সময় বাক্স-পেটারা ভেঙ্গে দামী জিনিষপত্র, কাপড়-চোপড়, গহনা সমস্ত তছনছ করে এবং সোনার হাতঘড়ি, রূপার গহনা, ১৫ খানি ডিফেন্স সেভিং সার্টিফিকেট বেমালুম নিয়ে যায়। আইন ও শৃঙ্খলার রক্ষকদের বেআইনী ডাকাতির এমন জলন্ত দৃষ্টান্ত আর কোন দেশে মিলিবে কি? এমন কি হিটলার ও তোজোর দেশেও!

বর্তমানে ডিফেন্স আইনের ব্যবস্থায় পুলিশ এখনও এই হতভাগ্য পরিবারকে প্রতিদিন নির্যাতন করছে। বিষ্ণুহরি বাবুর বড় ভাই শ্রীপ্রিয়নাথ দত্ত, পরিণতবয়স্ক লোক, হাপানী রোগী, তার উপর হুকুম আছে ৬ মাইল দূরে রোজ থানায় হাজির দেবার—গত বৎসর পুলিশ এঁদের

বাড়ীঘর দখল কোরে ক্যাম্প ফেলে এবং এখনও মাঝে মাঝে বাড়ীতল্লাসী করে। গত ১৯শে ফেব্রুয়ারী তমলুকের এস-ডি-পি-ও, কতকগুলি পুলিশ নিয়ে সোজা এঁদের বাড়ীর অন্দরমহলে চড়াও করে মহিলাদের পর্য্যন্ত কর্কশ কণ্ঠে নানা কথা জিজ্ঞাসাবাদ করে। তারপর আমাদেরই অর্থে পুষ্ট এই অভদ্র সরকারী গুণ্ডা প্রিয়নাথ বাবুকে অকথ্য গালাগালি করে এবং হুকুম করে যে ৭ দিনের মধ্যে বাড়ীর সামনের ভাগ পুলিশকে ছেড়ে দিতে হবে। পরের রবিবারে এই ভদ্রবেশী বর্ব্বর প্রিয়নাথ বাবুকে থানায় নিয়ে গিয়ে মারপিট করে। অপরাধি দমন, এবং শাস্তি দেবার ক্ষমতা সরকারের প্রচুর আছে কিন্তু বাড়ীতে গিয়ে লটতরাজ ও মারপিটের অধিকার কে দিয়েছে পুলিশকে? পুলিশকে হোম মিনিষ্টার গুণ্ডামী চালাবার চালাও হুকুম দিয়েছেন না পুলিশের গুণ্ডামী দমন করবার তাঁর কোন ক্ষমতা নাই?

মেদিনীপুরের একপ্রান্ত থেকে অন্য প্রান্ত পর্য্যন্ত আজ পুলিশ ও শাসনকর্ত্তাদের জবরদস্তি গুণ্ডামি ও লুটতরাজের ফলে বিমর্ষ ও বিধ্বস্ত। কংগ্রেসী আন্দোলনের দমনের নামে আইনসঙ্গত রিলিফের কাজ পর্য্যন্ত পিষে মারা হচ্ছে। কংগ্রেস কর্ম্মী যারাই মুক্তি পেয়েছে বা বাইরে আছে প্রত্যেককে অকারণে নানাভাবে হয়রাণ করা হচ্ছে। শাসনের নামে জংলী রাজত্বের এই বীভৎস বর্ব্বরতার জন্য দায়ী কে। হোম মিনিষ্টার কি এই সমস্ত ঘটনার জন্য দায়িত্ব নেবেন?

Mr. PATIRAM ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,84,74,000 under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the inefficiency of the police force and bribery as well.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, এবার বাজেটে দেখতে পাই যে পুলিশের খাতে প্রায় ৩ কোটি টাকার উপর ব্যয় হবে। গভর্ণমেণ্টের অন্য কোন Headএ এত টাকা ব্যয় করা হয় না। এই ব্যয় দ্বারা আশা করা যেতে পারে যে বাংলার পল্লী অঞ্চলে শান্তি স্থাপিত হবে। কিন্তু দেখা যায় সেখানে শান্তির পরিবর্ত্তে পুলিশের কার্য্যকলাপের ফলে অশান্তির সৃষ্টি হচ্ছে। মানুষ আশা করে পুলিশের দ্বারা চোর ডাকাতদের দমন করা হবে। কিন্তু অনেক সময় দেখা যায় পুলিশ এদের সহায়তা করে, এবং চুরি ডাকাতির পিছনে পুলিশের সহায়তা থাকে। এই প্রসঙ্গে আমি খুলনা জেলার আশাগুণি থানার কথা বলতে পারি। সেখানে একটা নারীহরণের ব্যাপারে পুলিশকে সংবাদ দেওয়া হয়। ৭ দিন পুলিশ এ সম্বন্ধে অনুসন্ধান করা প্রয়োজন বোধ করলেন না। তারপর যখন 2nd Officer এসে অনুসন্ধান করে গেলেন, কয়েকদিন পরে হঠাৎ দেখা গেল হঠাৎ 2nd Officerএর হাত থেকে Officer-in-charge file নিয়ে অনুসন্ধান আরম্ভ করলেন। তারপর কেন জানি না Circle Officer সেখানে নিজে গিয়া অনুসন্ধান আরম্ভ করলেন এবং তাঁর report পেয়ে police final report submit করল। আর একটা ঘটনার কথা শুনুন: সাতক্ষিরায় কিছুদিন আগে এক বাড়িতে রাত্রে ৩ ঘণ্টা ব্যাপী ডাকাতি হয়। দুই ঘণ্টার মধ্যে থানায় সংবাদ দিয়ে আসা যায় অথচ চারিদিকে চৌকিদার থাকা সত্বেও থানায় সংবাদ দেওয়া হয় নাই। আমরা দেখলাম এই কাজের সঙ্গে পুলিশের হাত ছিল। তারপর এই দলের কতকগুলি লোক ধরা পড়ল কিন্তু টাকা পয়সাওয়ালা লোক পেছনে থাকায় তারা আদালতে মুক্তি পেয়ে গেল। আমরা অনুমান করতে পারি এর পেছনে হয়তো পুলিশের সহায়তা ছিল।

তারপর আর একটি বিষয়—controlএর ফলে কলিকাতায় চাউল আনা নিষিদ্ধ হয়েছে। তাসত্বেও বহু চাউল এখানে আসছে পুলিশ দেখছে কিছু বলছে না। এর পেছনে হয়তো কোন গোপন রহস্য বিদ্যমান আছে। এইভাবে পুলিশের আচরণের দ্বারা control policy সম্পূর্ণরূপে fail হয়ে যাচ্ছে।

Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, খানবাহাদুর আবদুর রহমান সাহেব এই বেঞ্চে এসে বসে থাকেন কেন?

Mr. SPEAKER: Khan Bahadur, I think you had better come over to this side for the time being.

Khan Bahadur A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: Yes, Sir.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,84,74,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about the conduct of the police in enforcing control policy of the Government of Bengal.

General Administration সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা প্রসঙ্গে বাংলার প্রধান মন্ত্রী Sir Nazimuddin বুক ফুলিয়ে এই পরিষদকক্ষে ঘোষণা করেছিলেন যে police বা গভর্ণমেণ্ট officialদের কার্য্য সম্পর্কে কোন অভিযোগ যদি আনা হয়, তাহলে তা proper channelএর through দিয়ে আন্‌তে হবে। অবশ্য তিনি একথা বলেছিলেন—হিন্দুধর্ম্মের অধিকার যখন ক্ষুণ্ণ হয়েছিল, সেই প্রসঙ্গে। কিন্তু আমি জানি মুসলমান ধর্ম্মের অধিকার যদি ক্ষুণ্ণ হত, তাহলে Muslim League নেতা Sir Nazimuddin সাহেবের এরূপ ধৃষ্টতাপূর্ণ উক্তি করার সাহস হত না। এখন প্রশ্ন হচ্ছে—proper channelএ আসার সুবিধা-অসুবিধা কি? আমরা জানি সামান্য একটু দুর্য্যোগেই channelএ চড়া পড়ে যায় এবং সেই চড়া চিরদিনের মত থেকে যায়। আমি নিজে ৬ মাস পূর্ব্বে আমাদের গ্রামের পার্শ্ববর্ত্তী উজিরপুর থানার পুলিশ সম্পর্কে registered চিঠি দিয়েছিলাম Magistrateএর কাছে—তাদের দুর্নীতি ও কর্ত্তব্যহীনতা সম্পর্কে—কিন্তু আজ পর্য্যন্ত সেই রেজেষ্ট্রী চিঠির প্রাপ্তিস্বীকার পর্য্যন্ত Magistrate তরফ থেকে আসে নি। কাজেই যেখানে এই প্রকার গভর্ণমেণ্ট কর্ম্মচারীদের ঔদাসিন্য জনসাধারণের প্রতিনিধিদের অভিযোগ সম্পর্কের প্রতি—তার উপর যখন Sir Nazimuddin আমাদের উপর অত্যন্ত সহানুভূতিসম্পন্ন—আমাদের অভিযোগ সম্পর্কে এই মনোবৃত্তি নিয়ে যদি প্রধান মন্ত্রী থাকেন—তাহলে এই রাজ্যের সর্ব্বনাশ যে অবশ্যম্ভাবী তাতে বিন্দুমাত্র সন্দেহ নাই। যখন control policy গভর্ণমেণ্ট আরম্ভ করে দিলেন এবং denial policy দ্বারা যখন নৌকা registration প্রভৃতি আরম্ভ করা হল তখন পুলিশের জুলম ও ঘুষ খাওয়ার পথ পরিষ্কার হ'ল।। জনসাধারণের মধ্যে যখন হাহাকার পড়ে গেল, তখন হ'লো একজনের সর্ব্বনাশ, আর জনের পৌষ মাস। পুলিশের সেখানে একটা মস্ত বড় সুযোগ উপস্থিত অর্থ লুট করবার। যাক—সে অতীতের কাহিনী। বর্ত্তমানে control policy চলতে—

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I draw your attention to the fact that Alhadj Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury is sitting with members outside his group?

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Gyasuddin, for the time being will you please come over to this side of the House (pointing to the left). I will give my decision on this matter hereafter.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, Mr. Syed Ahmed is also there.

(Both Alhadj Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury and Mr. Syed Ahmed left the seats they were then occupying.)

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA : এই control policyর ফলে যে ঘটনা ঘটেছিল তার একটা উদাহরণ দিচ্ছি। উজিরপুর থানার বহু ধান আটক করা হয় এবং দারোগা ও তাহার আশ্রিতগণের মধ্যে বহু ধান বণ্টন করা হয়, উহার দাম দেওয়া হয়েছিল কি আপনারা অনুমান কর্ত্তে পারেন। ইহার পর নৌকাগুলি ছাড়িয়া থানার কিছুদূরে কমলপুরে উপস্থিত হইল। তারপর পুলিশ, বহু গ্রামবাসী সেই ধান নিয়ে যায় এবং ফলে সেখানে একটা সংঘর্ষের উৎপত্তি হয়।

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. GIASUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,84,74,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about failure of the Government to effect economy in police administration and to stop non-Bengalee appointments in Calcutta Police.

Sir, আমরা পুলিশ বিভাগের ব্যয়-বরাদ্দে দেখতে পাই সব সময় অন্যান্য বিভাগের থেকে এতে টাকার অঙ্ক বেশী থাকে। এবার দেখতে পাই তিন কোটির উপর পুলিশের খাতে ধরা হয়েছে। বাংলার বিভিন্ন জেলার administration জন্য যা খরচ হয় তার পরিমাণ এক কোটি পচানব্বই লক্ষ টাকার কিছু উপরে। কেবল মাত্র কলিকাতার পুলিশের জন্য খরচ হয় চুয়াল্লিশ লক্ষ টাকা। Presidency Division policeএর জন্য খরচ হয় প্রায় ৬১।।০ লক্ষ টাকা। আমরা বরাবরই বলেছি—পলিশ বিভাগের খরচ না বাড়িয়ে অন্যান্য জাতিগঠন-মূলক বিভাগের খরচ বাড়ানো হোক কিন্তু এদিকে গভর্ণমেণ্ট বা মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী মোটেই দৃকপাত করেন না। তা ছাড়া মনে হয় কলিকাতা পুলিশে non-Bengaleeর সংখ্যা শতকরা ৯০ জনেরও বেশী। আমাদের বাংলা দেশে জনসাধারণ কৃষক ও শ্রমিকদের ভিতর অনেক কম লেখা-পড়া জানা লোক আছে—যারা পুলিশের চাকরি পেলে জীবিকার উপায় করতে পারে। দেশে দুর্ভিক্ষ,—অনেকেরই হাতে কাজ নেই। এই অবস্থায়, যাতে তারা কলিকাতা পুলিশে স্থান পায়, এদিকে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর দৃষ্টি দেওয়া উচিত কিন্তু এখন পর্য্যন্ত তাঁরা এদিকে দৃষ্টি দেন নাই। এই পুলিস সম্পর্কে আমি আরও বলতে চাই পুলিস এবং জনসাধারণের মধ্যে যেরূপ সম্পর্ক থাকা উচিত আজ পর্য্যন্ত পুলিস সেই রকম সম্পর্ক স্থাপন করিতে পারে নাই। গভর্ণ-মেণ্টের সেদিকে দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করছি। তাদের জানা উচিত পুলিস জনসাধারণের চাকর—public servant। তাহলেই জনসাধারণের সঙ্গে তাদের বন্ধুত্বভাব স্থাপিত হবে। এসম্বন্ধে আমি একটি ঘটনার কথা বলতে চাই। ফরিদপুর জেলায় কিছুদিন পূর্ব্বে, 10th March, কানাইপুর হাটে একটা দুর্ঘটনা হয়েছে। আমাদের দেশে জনসাধারণের মধ্যে অশিক্ষার দরুণ ব্যাপকভাবে টীকা দেওয়ার মর্য্যাদা বুঝতে পারে না। সেইজন্য জনসাধারণ যখন টীকা নিতে অস্বীকার করে তখন police এবং military তাদের জোরজবরদস্তি করে টীকা দিতে আরম্ভ করে। তাহাতে জনসাধারণের সঙ্গে সংঘর্ষ হয়। তার ফলে সেখানে পুলিসের অমানুষিক অত্যাচার হয়েছে। এই রকম ২।১টি ঘটনা থেকে আমরা বুঝতে পারি, পুলিস জন-সাধারণের প্রতি কি রকম ব্যবহার করে থাকে। হতে পারে তারা অন্যায় করেছিল কিন্তু যে পরিমাণ অন্যায় করেছে, সেই পরিমাণ শাস্তি দেওয়া উচিত ছিল। কানাইপুর হাটের পূর্ব্ব পার্শ্বে দুই মাইল দূরে রাণীনগর নিবাসী খিনাতুল্লা মাতব্বর সাহেবের বাটীতে ও ঐ গ্রামের আবদুল গফুর ও জব্বর মাতব্বরের প্রতি পুলিসের অত্যাচার অত্যন্ত বেশী হয়েছে। মেয়েদের

পর্য্যন্ত বাড়ী হইতে তাড়িয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে এবং তাদের উপর অত্যাচার করা হয়েছে। ঘরের ধান-চাল বের করে একত্র করা হয়েছে এবং সমস্ত পুরুষগুলিকে মারপিট করে টাকা আদায় করা হয়েছে। তারপর কানাইপুর হাটের পূর্ব্ব-উত্তর কোণে প্রায় ৩ মাইল দূরে পরশউল্লা মাতব্বরের বাড়ীতে গিয়ে মেয়েদের উপর অত্যাচার করা হয়েছে এবং নিরীহ লোকদের অন্যায়রূপে ধরে হাজতে দেওয়া হয়েছে। হাটের দক্ষিণে প্রায় ৪।৮ মাইল দূরে আটঘর সাকিনে এন্তাজদ্দি সর্দ্দার সাহেবের বাটীতে প্রথমে মেয়েদের বাড়ী হতে তাড়িয়ে দিয়ে ঘরের কপাট ভেঙ্গে সিন্দুক, আলমারি এবং বাক্স হতে নগদ টাকা নিয়ে গিয়েছে। গোলার ১৫০ মণ ধান পায়খানায় ছড়িয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে। আরও কতকগুলি গ্রামে এরকম অত্যাচার হয়েছে।

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,84,74,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about bribery and corruption amongst Traffic Police in Calcutta.

কলিকাতার Traffic policeএর অত্যাচারের নমুনা শিয়ালদহ Station নামলেই বুঝতে পারা যায়। রিক্সা পিছু দুই পয়সা, ঘোড়ার গাড়ী ৪ পয়সা, টেক্সি পিছু ২ আনা করে দিতে হয়। গত ৫।৭।১০ বছর যাবৎ এই প্রথাই চলে এসেছে। কিন্তু এ অবস্থার প্রতিকার আজ পর্য্যন্ত কিছু দেখতে পারছি না। এমন খুব কম private গাড়ীর driver আছে যে Traffic police দৌরাত্ম্য ভোগ না করেছে। মন্ত্রী মহোদয়গণ বোধ হয় এই অত্যাচারের নমুনা কিছু কিছু পেয়েছেন। আজকাল black-outএর দিনে অন্তত: দু'টাকার কম পকেটে না নিয়ে বেরুণ চলে না কারণ কথা নেই বার্ত্তা নেই যে কোন মুহূর্ত্তে traffic constableএর হাতে পড়লে—আগে ছিল চার আনা, এখন আট আনার কমে ছাড়বে না। Hon'ble Finance Ministerএর মতে, এটা inflation of bribery কি না তা ঠিক বুঝতে পারছি না। আশা করি সে সম্বন্ধে তিনি অনুসন্ধান করবেন। চৈত্র মাস চলে গেল—জৈষ্ঠ মাস আসছে। মফঃস্বলের কৃষককুল নিজেরা না খেয়ে নিজেদের পুত্র কন্যাদের বঞ্চিত করে আম, জাম কলিকাতায় এনে বিক্রী করতে আরম্ভ করবে, তখন কলকাতার traffic police তাদের ঝাকা থেকে ভাগ বসাবে। এই যে অমানুষিক অত্যাচার দিনের পর দিন চলছে, এর কোন প্রতিকার নেই। আজ দেখছি যে political movement দমন করবার জন্য পুলিসকে একটা লাঠিয়াল সম্প্রদায়ে পরিণত করা হয়েছে—যেমন জমিদারী রাখবার জন্য এরূপ লাঠিয়ালের প্রয়োজন হয়। কিন্তু এই সমস্ত রিক্সা, টেক্সি, ঘোড়ার গাড়ীর driverদের উপর অত্যাচার করে জমিদারী রক্ষার জন্য এদের প্রশ্রয় দেওয়ার কোন দরকার নেই। কিন্তু সরকার এদের প্রশ্রয় দিচ্ছেন কেন সে বিষয়ে ভেবে দেখতে বলি। এই সমস্ত দরিদ্র hawker যারা দুটো আম বিক্রী করে, গেঞ্জি ফিরি করে জীবিকানির্ব্বাহ করে, তাদের উপর direct or indirect taxation, এই যে traffic policeএর ঘুষ, এটার যদি একটা statistics নেওয়া হয়, তাহলে ১৫।১৬ লক্ষ টাকায় দাঁড়িয়ে যাবে। Sales-tax বড় লোকের ঘাড়ে পড়ে কি না তাই নিয়ে আমরা আলোচনা করি, Agricultural income-tax নিয়ে আলোচনা হয় কিন্তু traffic policeএর taxation সম্বন্ধে কোন আলোচনা হয় না।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, can I have just one minute to put one question to the Hon'ble Minister?

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you kindly resume your seat, Dr. Sanyal? Mr. Skipwith.

Mr. W. E. SKIPWITH: Sir, on every occasion on which a member of this party has spoken on the subject of police we have urged the necessity

for an increase in the strength of the force, but the arguments we have put forward in the past pale into insignificance in the light of the position in this province today. In spite of our hopes there has been no adequate increase in the strength of the police force. It is true that the Range Reserve of 1,500 men has been re-established but a reference to the Red Book shows that the comparatively small increase in police expenditure during 1942-43—some Rs. 37 lakhs—is almost entirely due to dearness and ration allowances which means that the force has not in fact increased in numbers to any appreciable extent. On the other hand, their duties have increased enormously. Some 10 per cent. of the police are employed on what might be described as military duties—the guarding of railways, bridges, protected areas and as security police for air-fields. This, Sir, is a drain on the meagre resources of this province which we feel is not justified and we trust that the Hon'ble Minister will take every step possible to have these duties taken over by the military authorities.

In addition to these military duties the police force have been called upon to divert a lot of their energies to A.R.P. work and duties in connection with food control, destitutes and rice convoying, etc. The latest imposition, and one on which I wish to dwell for a moment, has been in connection with the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance and already we have heard in this House criticism for their failure to bring more recalcitrants to book. We agree, Sir, that there is scope for vast improvement in this respect but, at the same time, we deplore the fact that the Commerce and Labour Department are unable to provide independent machinery for this work. We also deplore, Sir, the inadequacy of the courts for the trial of these cases. In our opinion, the co-operation of the general public, which is absolutely essential if this Ordinance is to be effective, will not be forthcoming if they, and with them, the prosecuting police officers are kept waiting for cases to be brought up in the already congested courts. If the police must be employer to implement the provisions of this Ordinance then it is doubly important that special courts with summary procedure to try hoarding and profiteering cases be set up and we hope the Hon'ble Minister will give this matter his close attention.

With such a vast expansion in their duties and no corresponding increase in their strength is it any wonder that crime and undetected crime is on the increase too? I do not think the Hon'ble Minister will deny that dacoities have increased tenfold in recent months but to claim that this is due to slackness or inefficiency on the part of the police shows a lack of realism. With prices at their prevailing inflated levels and with a general scarcity of consumers' goods there must be an added incentive to dacoity, and to make their task even more difficult there has been no improvement in police communications. It is, for instance, a most astounding fact that the police are apparently unable to obtain anything like adequate supplies of coal for their river craft.

Finally, Sir, I wish to express to our police force the congratulations of this party for the uncomplaining manner in which they have struggled to uphold the law and order in this province under such great difficulties and with so very little co-operation from those they seek to serve.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I have one minute for putting one question?

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I have nothing to say.

Dr. GOBINDA CHANDRA BHAUMIK: তমলুক মহকুমার পুলিস নানারকম অত্যাচার করছে। গ্রামে গ্রামে গিয়ে অবস্থিত লোকদের ধরবার জন্য বলছে তোমাদের এইখানে অবাঞ্ছিত লোক থাকে। সেই লোকদের না পেয়ে নিরীহ গরীব লোকদের উপর নানারকম অত্যাচার করছে। এমন কি তাদের ধান, চাল, কলাই একত্র করে পুকুর থেকে জল-কাঁদা-মাটি এনে মিশিয়ে দিচ্ছে। এই রকম ঘটনা মহিষাদল থানার ৫৯নং ইউনিয়নে ঘটেছে। সেখানে গিয়ে পুলিস গরীব লোকদের প্রায় ১০ মণ ধান ছড়িয়ে দিয়েছে। তারপর সেই সব স্থানে যেসব লোকের বিরুদ্ধে case দায়ের করা হয়েছিল তারা যখন আদালতের বিচারে খালাস হয়ে গেল তখন তাদের special police করে দেওয়া হলো যার ফলে তাদের রোজ ১০।১৫ মাইল পথ হেটে থানায় হাজিরা দিতে বাধ্য করা হলো। এই রকম ঘটনা দিন দিন ঘটছে। এমন অনেক সময় দেখা গেছে, কোন গ্রামে কতকগুলি লোককে ধরে আনা হলো, সেখানে তাদের জিজ্ঞাসাবাদ না করে থানায় নিয়ে যাওয়া হলো। এই রকম অনাচার খুব চলছে। কারণ সেখানে বাস্তবিকই পুলিস এবং জনসাধারণের মধ্যে কোন সহযোগিতা নাই। তার কারণ হচ্ছে সেখানে গত কয় বৎসরের মধ্যে যেভাবে রাজত্ব চালিয়েছে, বিশেষত: August movement এর পর থেকে মেদিনীপুরে যেভাবে পুলিসের অত্যাচার চলছে, যদি কোন দিন ভারতবর্ষের সত্যিকার ইতিহাস লেখা হয় তাহলে দেখা যাবে যে নৃশংসতায় এবং ভয়াবহতায় তারা নাৎসীদেরও ছাড়িয়ে গেছে।

আমি Sir Nazimuddinকে বলতে চাই যদি সেখানে তিনি সত্যিকার উপকার করতে চান, তাহলে সত্যিকার যে সমস্ত কর্ম্মী সেখানে আটক আছে তাদের ছেড়ে দিন, এবং তারাই জনসাধারণের মনোভাব পরিবর্ত্তন করতে পারবে এবং সেখানকার অশান্তি দূর হবে। মেদিনীপুরে ১৯৩০ সাল হতে আইন অমান্য অন্দোলন এবং অন্যান্য অশান্তির ফলে পুলিসের অত্যাচার সমানে চলছে। সেখানে শীতের দিনে গ্রামবাসিগণকে পুকুরের জলে ডুবিয়ে পরে পাখার বাতাস দেওয়া হয়েছে। পুলিসের সত্যিকারের কাজ যদি আইন ও শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষাই হয় তাহলে এই রকম বিশৃঙ্খলভাবে কাজ করলে অবস্থার উন্নতি হবে না। আমি অনুরোধ করছি যাঁরা দেশের নেতা, যাদের জনসাধারণ শ্রদ্ধা করে তাদের ছেড়ে দেওয়া হোক এবং তাদের জনসাধারণের ভিতর শান্তি স্থাপনের ভার দেওয়া হোক, তাহলে ভাল কাজ হবে।

Mr. ABUL HOSAIN AHMED: পুলিশ বিভাগের অনিষ্টের মূল হচ্ছে subordinate police অর্থাৎ inspector, sub-inspector downwards, তাঁদের direct superior হচ্ছেন inspectors, এই inspector দের lower rank থেকে promotion দিয়ে নেওয়া হয়—অর্থাৎ তাদের old criminals থেকে করা হয়।

একবার একটা meeting হোয়েছিল Sir Nazimuddin সেখানে president ছিলেন, Commissioner of Police ছিলেন, Inspector-General of Police ছিলেন। সেখানে সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করা হয় যে certain per cent of inspectors recruit করা হবে from B.C.S. Examination. অবশ্য Inspector-General of police তার প্রতিবাদ করেছিলেন। তিনি একাই একশ। তারপর পুলিশ বিভাগের খরচ কমালে efficiency কমে যাবে। পুলিশ officerদের self-supporting করতে হবে। তাহলে তারা honestly কাজ করবে। পেটের

জন্যই চাকরী, পেটে ক্ষুধা থাকলে তারা কখনও honestly কাজ করতে পারে না। তারপর constableদের recruitment [illegible] মধ্যেই confined থাকা উচিত। তা নাহলে এই স্বায়ত্ত-শাসনের কোন মূল্যই থাকতে পারে না। তারপর দেশের মঙ্গলামঙ্গল নির্ভর করে Chief Ministerএর কার্য্য ক্ষমতার উপর। কেবল portfolio বণ্টন করে বসে থাকলেই চলবে না, প্রত্যেক বিভাগের উপর নজর রাখা অতীব প্রয়োজন যাতে nepotism এবং dishonesty প্রশ্রয় না পায়।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I put one or two questions to the Hon'ble Home Minister? As the time at my disposal is very short, I will only confine myself to inviting his attention to one or two specific cases and asking him what he advises me to do in the circumstances.

On Monday, the 17th January at 8-25 p.m. while I was coming out of Howrah Station I noticed one fellow was collecting some tips from a number of hackney carriage drivers and rickshaw pullers. I caught hold of one young fellow while he was actually collecting tips and there were two constables near about, namely, Nos. 20 and 69. I asked them to arrest the fellow and they refused. Then, Sir, I took that rickshaw puller from whom the money was actually collected in my presence to the Government Railway Police Office at Howrah and along with me was Dr. Ukil, a very respectable citizen of Calcutta, and we lodged the complaint formally. The rickshaw puller's name is Gokai Rabidas of 19, Haradas Lane, Chorebagan police-station. The matter was duly reported. The man was searched in our presence, and a number of small coins and anna bits were discovered from him. At first he tried to explain by saying: "This is my own money" and then he practically admitted that he had collected such money. The two police constables were sent for and they came to the thana and said that though they were there they noticed nothing and although I requested them to arrest the man they could not arrest him because that particular spot where the man was actually collecting was in charge of another constable who just went out for taking tea. The Inspector of the Howrah Station came after this incident on his having been asked to come. The Inspector took the thana officer to task for having taken this matter up without his permission. There the matter ended. I formally lodged the complaint; I wrote out the complaint and Dr. Ukil also signed his name and gave his address. That was on the 17th January. Up to date I do not know what action has been taken and whether Government propose to take any action. There have been also similar other occurrences brought to the notice of members at Sealdah and nothing has been done so far. The matter was brought to a head a few years ago when the then Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, took drastic steps and for some time it appeared that the evil had been checked. But Sir, since then matters have again become worse.

In the mufassil also we have noticed that even *bonâ fide* reports to the thana made by respectable citizens regarding black marketing or profiteering are not taken any notice of and this has been the case both at Berhampore as well as at Krishnagar. Certain police officers who were complained against were for a time temporarily kept under surveillance but, Sir, no

actual step has been taken. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister what is the remedy of an ordinary humble law-abiding citizen in such cases?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, the time at my disposal is very short. So I shall try to confine myself to one or two points that have been raised today.

I will begin by informing Dr. Sanyal that his proper course should have been, if he had found that nothing had been done to speak to the Superintendent of Police.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I spoke to the S. P. Branch.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The S. P., Howrah, has no jurisdiction over the Railway Police. Dr. Sanyal knows this very well. The Railway Police is different from the District Police and that area is under the jurisdiction of the Railway Police. There is one S. P. (Railways) at Howrah and another at Sealdah.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: What are you going to do after hearing this?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: If only Mr. Gupta had waited he would have got the answer. His question is not a relevant question at all. Dr. Sanyal wanted to know what he should do and I have told him what his duty was. I do not think I am called upon to give a reply to Mr. Gupta. (Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Keep quiet then.) My policy is that when complaints are brought to my notice I immediately call for report. I have made it abundantly clear to the Inspector-General of Police and the Commissioner of Police that we must have all complaints properly investigated, and if in any case the police are found to be in the wrong they must be punished. On the other hand, while we hear complaints about police there are occasions when though the police have taken action no appreciation is shown by the members of this House or by the public. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That shows that action was not justified.)

Sir, it has been stated by a member of the European Group that the police have had a very trying time. There has been a very large increase in crimes. The number of police at the present time is hopelessly inadequate. We have tried to increase the number but the capacity for expansion is limited to the facilities available for training in the province. We cannot recruit any number of police as and when we want. We have got to give them training and for that facilities are required in places where we can give training. We have extended our training establishments both in Calcutta and Sarda to the utmost extent. It is not possible to do any more until we have one or two more training centres. The proposal for a temporary training centre has been discussed by the Inspector-General of Police and if it is feasible we shall try and establish training centres and increase the number of police. There is no doubt that at the present time more police is required, (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What about Home Guards?) As far as Home Guards are concerned the members sitting opposite have complained about Home Guards. I think in most places the Home Guards are doing very good work and during my tours

I have received reports from the members of the public that the Home Guards have been helpful in putting down crimes and patrolling and in coming to the help of the public on occasions when their help was needed. But the Home Guards cannot actually fulfil all the duties of the police.

As regards the question raised about Midnapore district and particularly Tamluk area, honourable members have listened to the complaints, but there is also another side to the story. In that area innocent persons are being regularly kidnapped and murdered. If honourable members have said "shame, shame" to the alleged excesses in December, I do not think it is much worse than kidnapping people and killing them. Not only are people being kidnapped but they are being blackmailed. Money is being extorted from them and they are terrorised to a great extent. While discussing with one gentleman who made this complaint about the alleged police excesses I gather that the attitude of the local people seems to be this: "If we give information to the police we lose our life. If we do not give information to the police the utmost thing that can happen is ducking in cold water". I would like the honourable members to realise that the conditions in the Tamluk area are very bad. (Cries of "Question, question" from the Opposition Benches.) The remedy that was suggested by honourable members opposite was that all these persons should be released. I find great difficulty in accepting that because evidently at the time when these people were put in jail the representatives of the Opposition Benches were in power. They thought that these people were responsible for the trouble in Midnapore and therefore they were put under arrest and detained by them. It is also our report that to a very large extent the people there were responsible for the very serious situation that was created at that time. I do not see how we can at present take the risk of releasing these people and be sure that the same thing will not occur again. What is the guarantee that these things will not occur again, as long as the attitude of the Congress Party in Midnapore, the Official Congress themselves have not accepted the position that they will not do anything of that sort in Midnapore hereafter——

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: What do you mean? Will not that help you in ducking them in cold water?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As they have not yet accepted that position it is not possible.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY: Is that your dictum or *fatwa*?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: This is a very important question and I have discussed it with some members.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Call a round table conference and see that these things are settled once for all.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Unless there is some kind of declaration from the Official Congress Party and we are satisfied that there

is no likelihood of future trouble I find very great difficulty in agreeing to the release of these people. That is the only solution that has been put forward.

As far as the police is concerned I am prepared to hold an enquiry and, if there had been any excesses, to punish the people, but let me ask the members opposite what are they going to do to help in stopping murders and kidnapping? Will they not go and tell the people to stop these things?

Mr. KIRON SANKAR ROY: The Congress takes no responsibility for murders. If you give names we shall enquire.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: And I have made my position clear and I think that now the responsibility rests on the people of Midnapore and those who are responsible for the organisation of theirs.

As regards the other point raised about the enrolment of Bengalees in the police, I can assure the House that so far as the unarmed branch is concerned, none but Bengalees are being taken in in the Bengal Police as far as my information goes, and it is only in those cases where we cannot get recruits from amongst the Bengalees that the police authorities come up to us for recruiting non-Bengalees. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What about the constabulary?) The constabulary in the Bengal Police is almost entirely Bengalee.

Sir, we have a great difficulty in getting the right type of recruits for the Calcutta Police. We deputed an Indian Deputy Commissioner of Police to the districts of Bengal to try and get recruits fitted with the qualifications that were required, but the result has not been to our expectation. But I am not yet prepared to accept that nor do I accept that we cannot have Bengalees for the Calcutta Police. My attitude is that after the war is over when there will be no dearth of men, in the armed branch and in the police force, we shall have none but Bengalees in future.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY: Sir, may I put only one question to the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin? Is he going to make an enquiry into the affairs in Midnapore and arrest those police officers who are working as *goondas* under the Security Prisoners' rule?

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not arise. I cannot allow it.

The motion of Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar that the demand of Rs. 2,84,74,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Haripada Chattopadhyay that the demand of Rs. 2,84,74,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Patiram Roy that the demand of Rs. 2,84,74,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Sj. Narendra Nath Das Gupta that the demand of Rs. 2,84,74,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs. 2,84,74,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose that the demand of Rs. 2,84,74,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin that a sum of Rs. 2,84,74,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "29—Police", was then put and agreed to.

28—Jails and Convict Settlements.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,10,05,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements".

Mr. GIASUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,10,05,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to release all political prisoners.

আজ সমস্ত ভারতবর্ষের বাস্তবিক মানুষ যারা, যারা ভারতবর্ষকে সুচারুরূপে চালাতে পারে এবং সাহায্য করতে পারে সেই সব মানুষকে জেলে রাখা হয়েছে, এবং তারা যে কি অপরাধ করেছে তা পর্য্যন্ত জানতে পারে নাই। আজ তাঁদের নাম সকলের জানা আছে, যেমন মহাত্মা গান্ধীপ্রমুখ নেতৃবৃন্দ।

তাছাড়া Bengal Assemblyর ১০ জন সদস্যকেও জেলে আটক রাখা হয়েছে। পৃথিবীর কোন দেশের ইতিহাসে দেখা যায় না যে বিনা বিচারে মানুষকে অনির্দ্দিষ্ট কালের জন্য আটক রাখা হয়।

এই গভর্ণমেণ্ট যখন মন্ত্রিত্ব লাভ করেছিলেন তখন তাঁরা বোলেছিলেন যে political prisonersদের মুক্ত করে দেবেন, কিন্তু আজ পর্য্যন্ত তার কোন লক্ষণ দেখতে পাচ্ছি না। আমার বিশ্বাস যদি বর্ত্তমানে হক মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী থাকতো তাহলে এই সব রাজবন্দিগণ মুক্তি পেতে পারতো। আজ যখন দেশে পূর্ণ মহামারী উপস্থিত হয়েছে, কলেরা, বসন্ত প্রভৃতি রোগে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক মারা যাচ্ছে, এবং আর একটা দুর্ভিক্ষের আভাষ পাওয়া যাচ্ছে সেই সমস্ত বন্দীদের, যাদের দেশের লোক ভালবাসে, যারা organisation জানে তাদের যদি মুক্তি দেওয়া হয়, তাহলে দেশের লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক এইভাবে অনাহারে এবং মহামারীতে মরণ বরণ করতো না। তারা জানে কি করে টাকা উশুল করতে হয়, মানুষকে কি করে বাঁচাতে হয়, তারা জানে কি করে দেশকে চালাতে হয়। এই মানুষগুলিকে এখন আটকে রাখা হয়েছে। তাঁছাড়া আমাদের বাংলা এসেমব্লীর ১০ জন সহকর্ম্মী বিশেষ করে বাংলার নেতা শরৎচন্দ্রকে আজ পর্য্যন্ত গভর্ণমেণ্ট মুক্ত করার কোন স্পৃহা দেখান নাই। এই সব ব্যক্তিগণ জনসাধারণের ভোটে Assemblyতে এসেছেন, তাঁদের আটক করে জনসাধারণের অধিকার ক্ষুণ্ণ করা হয়েছে।

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,10,05,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about the indifference and want of alertness on the part of the Government

to attend to complaints regarding jail administration and highhandedness of the jail officials.

Sir, once again I say to the Hon'ble Minister that please take note of matters placed before the Assembly by each and every member, examine and investigate into them and then discard those which you find to have no importance and foundation and take up those which require consideration and remedy. Please do not try to silence our voice by telling that we are all crisis-mongers, that we do not sincerely feel for the real cause but we speak of failures of the Government and exaggerate matters only to bring them down. Please also do not replace the method of deciding questions here by constitutional methods, namely with votes, by the method of deciding questions by duels and physical force. That is neither suitable nor befitting the dignity of this House and the honourable members who adorn the benches of this House. Without much comment, Sir, I shall, now, place facts for the consideration of the House.

Sir, I must at the outset admit that the Hon'ble the Chief and Home Minister and his two Parliamentary Secretaries, namely, Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali and Mr. K. Nasarullah, took some interest in dealing with the cases of the security prisoners in different jails brought to their notice by me on several occasions. In many cases out of those referred to them allowances already granted have been increased, fresh allowances granted and some released. They also acknowledged my letters though with great regret I must say that the Hon'ble Mr. B. P. Pain did not even reply to any of my letters. We, therefore, accord our thanks to the Hon'ble the Chief Minister and his Parliamentary Secretaries for what they have done for the security prisoners, but I must also say that there are yet many more things left undone.

During the regime of this Ministry there were three assaults on the security prisoners—one on the 25th April, 1943, in the Presidency Jail, one some time in May, 1943, in the Alipore Central Jail and the third on the 29th December, 1943, in the Rajshahi Central Jail. These incidents were promptly brought to the notice of the Ministers but they did not move. They did not think it proper to visit the jails and investigate into those matters nor did they bring the culprits to book. In Rajshahi the assault was on the sick prisoners in the hospital ward. After the assault the sick prisoners who required special treatment and care were forcibly put into condemned cells. Vindictiveness of the jail authorities could not go further.

Sir, one ordinary Muhammadan prisoner was forced to drink a mixture of urine and night-soil in the Dinajpur Jail. Pointed attention was drawn to this by me in the last budget session and an investigation was promised but nothing has been done yet by the Government.

Bijoy Adhikary, a boy of very tender age, arrested in August, 1942, has turned altogether insane. He has been in a cell with ordinary insane criminals in the Dum Dum Jail. No medical treatment worth the name has been given to him. If proper care had been taken in time, this poor boy would not have turned stark mad.

Kumud Babu, another security prisoner, is in jail from 1932. His release was due in 1942 but he was arrested at the jail gate on release and is in the Dum Dum Jail in a deranged condition of brain.

Sj. Sitala Bhattacharya, another convicted political prisoner with life sentence in the Rajshahi Jail, has also become insane. The usual term of life sentence has in this case as well as in the cases of Sjs. Jogendra Hazra and Kanan Goswami expired; yet they are detained. The conditions of health of Sjs. Arun Banerji, Bimal Chatterji, Bisweswar Sinha, Saral Guha, Radhika Das, Rabindra Sikdar and Krishnagopal Lahiri—all in the Rajshahi Jail and of Sj. Pannalal Mitra in the Presidency Jail—are very precarious. The Civil Surgeon or the medical officer concerned and the Jail Superintendent, after examination, recommended their removal to the Medical College for proper treatment and examination by experts but the Government did not pay any heed to it.

Mrs. Leela Roy, Mrs. Labanyaprova Das Gupta, Miss Shaila Sen—all in the Dinajpur Jail—are suffering from serious diseases for a long time. Mrs. Roy's health condition is causing alarm, but nothing has been done to give them proper medical aid though these facts have been brought to the notice of the Government long ago.

Sj. Soumyendra Nath Tagore is seriously ill in the Dum Dum Jail. X-ray examination disclosed colitis. The report of the Civil Surgeon from the United Provinces where Mr. Tagore was before his transfer to Dum Dum reveals complications of heart. He has bronchial lungs and lost about 40 lbs. in weight.

Sj. Nagendra Chakravarty was surgically operated upon twice for appendicitis and requires to be operated upon for the third time. His condition is extremely precarious.

Sj. Monoranjan Dutta in the Dum Dum Jail, Sjs. Nitai Jana and Brojendra Das in the Presidency Jail are either confirmed or suspected tubercular patients, but expert advice and proper treatment have not been arranged for them.

Sj. Nripati Chatterji in the Midnapore Jail has almost completely lost his hearing power. He was recommended the use of an apparatus to help his audition, but though a very long time has passed, none cared to find an apparatus for him.

Sj. Surendra Ghosh in the Midnapore Jail has been continuously suffering from low fever, Sj. Pratap Mazumdar in the Buxa Jail from blood pressure, Sj. Prafulla Tripathy from skin disease and Sj. Jyotish Guha in the Presidency Jail from obstinate lumbago. There is also the case of Sj. Sitesh Chandra Kar, who is developing insanity. Pandit Dharanath Bhattacharyya in the Presidency Jail is suffering from palpitation of heart and vertigo. He is aged 62 years.

Sir, none cares to give them any attention. If the Government are unable to arrange for proper and timely medical aids to them, then they should release them and others who are suffering from various diseases. Do not please kill them inch by inch inside the jails separated from their mothers, wives and near and dear ones.

Delayed disposal of petitions for family allowance is causing immense hardship and difficulties to the dependant members. Cases are many where allowances have not been granted even after two or three years of their arrest and detention and even allowances, when granted, were not allowed from the dates of their arrest.

Sir, I shall give a few instances where allowance has not been granted and even when granted, was not granted from the date of their arrest. Sjs. Pramatha Nath Banerji, Midnapore, ex-M.L.C., Makhan Lal Sen, Amar Gopal Nandi, M.A., Birendra Sinha, Kulada Chakravarty, Biswanath Mukherji, Arun Banerji, Sukumar Chakravarty, Upendra Chowdhury, Radhagobinda Sarkar, Manmatha Nath Chakravarty, Kshemesh Chatterjee, Satis Biswas, Hemanta Kumar Bose, Phanindrabhushan Dutt, Pandit Dhara Nath Bhattacharya, Sohanlal Misra and Shyama Charan Biswas have not yet been granted any allowance though they applied for it times without number and I submitted lists of their names several times. Sj. Prafulla Tripathy and Sj. Nripati Chatterji, though arrested about four years back, have only very recently been granted very inadequate allowances but not from the dates of their arrest. Kumari Atasi Devi, niece of Nripati Babu, a student in the Government Weaving Institute, was a dependant of Nripati Babu and she has not been granted any allowance yet. I have given the names by way of illustration only, for it is not possible to give an exhaustive list of names who have not either been granted allowance or granted allowance but not from the dates of their arrest.

Sir, I shall now cite the names of prisoners who have been granted ridiculously inadequate family allowances.

Sj. Kshitish Chandra Kundu, Dum Dum Jail, with 13 dependants—Rs. 10. Sj. Bamachadan Chakravarty, Presidency Jail, with 6 dependants and with a rented house in Calcutta,—Rs. 75. Sj. Pramatha Banerjee, Faridpur Jail, with 6 dependants—Rs. 38. Sj. Pramatha Chakravarty, Advocate, with 7 dependants and a rented house in Calcutta—Rs. 150. Sj. Swarna Mitra, with 4 dependants—father, mother, wife and a child—Rs. 15. Sj. Bhupendra Bhattacharya with his old father, mother, 6 minor brothers and sisters, wife and a daughter—Rs. 10 and then raised to Rs. 20. Sj. Anil Roy, M.A., B.L., for his mother—Rs. 10 or Rs. 15. Sj. Nirmal Roy, M.A., and Parimal Roy, M.A., both brothers under detention, with 70 years' old father and 3 minor brothers—Rs. 20. Sj. Abinash Chandra Bose with 5 dependants—Rs. 40 and then raised to Rs. 60. They have sold ornaments and incurred debts. There are many such families of security prisoners in Bengal who have sold their ornaments and are now starving. Sj. Rabindra Sanyal, Pleader, with five dependants and a rented house in Calcutta—Rs. 60. Sj. Pratul Gobinda Deb with 4 or 5 dependants—Rs. 10 or Rs. 15. Sj. Gouranga Das with 4 or 5 dependants—Rs. 15. Mr. Krishna Chatterji—Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 for his mother and Sj. Sibapada Mukherji—Rs. 30 for a large family.

This sort of ridiculously low allowance has been like adding insult to injury and actually the last named gentleman has asked the Government to cancel this allowance. Family allowance should also be continued to be paid for six months or so after release for the reason that employment

already lost cannot be obtained as soon as one is released. Sj. Mani Das and Sj. Nripendra Ray released with restriction orders on them have already applied for such allowance. Allowance is granted after long delay but payment again is deferred. Sj. Jamini K. Goswami though released has not yet been paid his arrear allowance, which accrued due to him during his detention. Hindi dailies in spite of repeated demands have not been supplied to only Hindi-knowing security prisoners. Though there is a provision for temporary leave in emergent circumstances, leave has not been granted to any except to one or two prisoners even when the leave was asked by the prisoner on sufficient grounds. Enquiries in this respect are invariably delayed, so much so, that reports reach the authorities after the deaths of the parents and relations of the security prisoners for which leave was asked.

It has been announced by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister that with the exception of furniture all articles given to the security prisoners are their personal properties. The Inspector-General of Prisons in disregard of this policy announced by the Chief Minister is inviting troubles by asking the jail authorities to take back old cloths, shirts, etc., before issuing new ones. This is certainly against the orders of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister. Trouble is brewing in the Dum Dum Jail over this question. Series of letters have been addressed to the Hon'ble Home Minister but no heed is being paid to it. From the 15th February last about a dozen security prisoners in the Presidency Jail are taking half meal by way of protest against the orders of the Government in refusing contribution by the security prisoners to the non-official relief committees from their dietary allowances. This fact was also brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Home Minister but to no effect. Things should not be allowed to continue like this especially when some of the Caste Hindu Ministers gave the public to understand that they were in the Ministry to set right all wrongs regarding political prisoners.

Please release them all and bring an end to all troubles.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Babu RADHANATH DAS: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,10,05,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about the general maladministration in the jails of Bengal.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of my cut motion is to bring to the notice of the Government that worst state of affairs with regard to the administration of jails are existing in this province. There has not been any change in the matter. Notice of the Government has been drawn to this effect, times without number, but it was of no avail. The Government always have turned a deaf ear to the grievances of prisoners brought to the notice of the Government by the members of this House.

The pitiable and painful conditions of the division III prisoners under which they are made to stay in jails call for a change. And this change is very earnestly required. They are considered as not human beings and the treatment that is meted out to them does not comply with any sort of

treatment that can be found to exist between man and man. Improvement should be made as regards their food, their receiving more letters from their relatives and sending more to them, in the matter of their medical treatment and various other matters with regard to them. It should be made clear that in jail hospitals the division III prisoners should be considered equally with other prisoners and there should be no differential treatment between different classes of prisoners in jails. This I say, Sir, only because I have seen with my own eyes that the lives of division III prisoners are not considered as lives of human beings at all, but that of some other beings. This is a very deplorable state of affair.

Then, Sir, as regards accommodation I should like to say something. In the jails of Bengal there is overcrowding to a very large extent and consequent lack of accommodation and the Government know it quite well. The Government have been knowing it since four years ago, but in spite of that nothing has been done to remove this difficulty. Specially the cases of undertrial prisoners are very miserable so far as this overcrowding is concerned, and the Government are totally ignoring the rules of Jail Code so far as this matter is concerned. So also, Sir, in the matter of providing the prisoners with clothings, utensils and various other matters the Government are not complying with the Jail Code rules. The Government with regard to this matter replied last year that due to some untoward circumstances they could not take proper measure to accommodate the prisoners, they could not give sufficient utensils, clothings, etc., to the prisoners. But may I now say, Sir, that those untoward circumstances have now changed to some extent but still the conditions of the prisoners with regard to the matters mentioned above are still remaining quite the same. This cannot be changed with the change of circumstances, because they were found to exist in jails when such unwanted and untoward circumstances with regard to food and various other matters that have been brought about by the war, were not in existence formerly. These malpractices and maladministration in jails can only be changed with the change of heart. If Government be pleased to take a sympathetic turn of mind in looking after the cases of prisoners, then and then only the conditions of prisoners will be changed, otherwise not.

Then, Sir, as regards the jail hospitals I have many things to say but time will not permit me to do that. Last year the Home Minister said in reply, when demand for grant on this very subject was under consideration by this House, that everything against jail hospitals was untrue. I say, Sir, that that very statement of the Hon'ble Minister was totally without any foundation. We have got the first-hand knowledge of the treatment of medical officers towards the prisoner patients in jails. I ask the Hon'ble Minister to go to jails sometimes and see these things with his own eyes. The medical officers are utterly callous and indifferent towards the patients and not only that they do not properly diagnose the cases and before doing any diagnosis they treat them and as a consequence many of the prisoners die before proper medical treatment is meted out to them. I again repeat, Sir, as I said last year that due to this callousness and indifferent treatment on the part of medical officers and other high officials of the Alipore Central Jail one of our friends Mr. Madan Gopal Joshi died before any real and proper medical treatment was arranged for him.

Then, Sir, there is stealing in jails on which I do not want to dilate. This is known to all the members as well as the Government. What I want to say is that the Government will not be able to bring about good management and better administration in jails unless and until they take a sympathetic turn of mind towards this matter.

Dr. SANAULLAH: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,10,05,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about jail administration and treatment towards ordinary convicts.

Sir, the point that I want to stress is this. The more we spread education, specially religious education, the less we would require jails and the less would be the huge expenditure required at present for the administration of jails. Generally, thieves, if they go to jails, become dacoits; and when they come back they generally get more adherents to their cult and take recourse to more violent methods. So, instead of spending money on construction and administration of jails, if we divert this amount towards spreading education specially religious education both in and outside the jails and if we subsidise the Ulemas and Pandits to spread religious education as is generally done even today without subsidy in rural areas by Maulvis and Mollas, they will, as a matter of fact, render more service to the rural people than even the police. Because their work is preventive and the police function is generally post-mortem. When an occurrence has already taken place, then the police come there and they generally take bribes from both sides and a case is nominally started. From personal experience, I can tell the House that in the broad daylight a boat of molasses (*gur*) was looted in a certain place by a notorious gangster. The police came there, put their camp, and stayed there for several days, rather weeks, investigated the matter but in the long run everybody got scot-free and nothing was done except waste of public money. On the other hand, if Maulvis, Ulemas and Pandits, the real religious leaders of rural people, are engaged on this work both in and outside the jails and if they are given living subsistence allowance by Government, they will work wonders. After hearing religious discourses, all these people would shed tears. The fear of God Almighty is there and they would become immune to this sort of evil propensity. By taking them to jail and feeding them at a great cost, the Government will be simply wasting money which the law-abiding citizens are called upon to pay, specially this year, to the extent of Rs. 1½ crores. This is a wrong approach to the problem. In another way if we really try to imitate the divine rule by making more deterrent the punishment for this sort of crimes, there would be less criminals and it is certainly not to the credit of the Legislature that common people should break the law and undergo the punishment. It is not to the credit of a medical practitioner that he should allow his patients to die. It is certainly a discredit to a doctor that a patient should die while under his treatment. In the same way, it is a discredit to the Legislature—not to the law courts but to the makers of laws—that they could not make the punishment so deterrent that the ordinary people do not commit the offence at all. So, from that point of view there should be alteration in the field of legislation. The best ideal for us is what is set by Islam as embodied in the holy Quoran. We are

only human beings and to err is human. We are always subject to erring. If we simply keep to the divine law as it is done in Arabia, it would be better for the world.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, I do hope that the Hon'ble the Home Minister does not follow the direction given by the speaker who has preceded me. He has talked of the Quoran and he has talked of many things. I feel that even in the day of Rasoolullah there were people whose hands were cut off for theft and there were people who were stoned to death and there were people who were punished for other crimes. The moral influence to which the honourable member who spoke before me referred has been tried the world over without effect. But, Sir, I would again appeal to the Hon'ble the Home Minister through you not to put any Ulama on that task. The Persian saying is:

چوں بہ خلوت می روند آں کار دیگر می کنند

When they go into privacy they do other things.

We have lost complete and entire faith in that type of humanity whom we have begun to call Ulama. The Ulama of that type, Sir, stand completely disgraced and condemned in the eyes of all Mussalmans not only in India but all over the Muslim world. Any possible chances of an improvement of the psychology of the poor criminal are bound to fail. I have nothing to say as to what the Pandits will do because my experience of Pandits is limited. But what is known as the Ulama tribe among us, I have seen in Turkey, in Syria, in Palestine, in Egypt and in this unfortunate country. There is no priesthood in Islam. We do not want Muslim Padris and Pandits among us and I hope the Hon'ble the Home Minister will have nothing to do with that type in our society.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY: মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমার সময় মাত্র ৪ মিনিট। এই স্বল্প সময়ের মধ্যে জেলের বন্দীদের অভাব-অভিযোগ সম্বন্ধে কোন কথা বলাই সম্ভব নয়; কেবল নিরাপত্তা বন্দীদের সম্বন্ধে কয়েকটি কথা বলতে চাই। নিরাপত্তা বন্দীদের মুক্তি দেওয়া গভর্ণমেণ্ট আজ পর্য্যন্ত যুক্তিসঙ্গত মনে করলেন না। এক-দুই করে গুণে গুণে যা ছাড়ছিলেন সম্পতি তাও একেবারে বন্ধ হয়েছে। বিনা বিচারে দেশের সর্ব্বশ্রেষ্ঠ নরনারীদের বন্দী রেখে সরকার তাদের ঘোরতর অযোগ্যতার প্রমাণই কি দিচ্ছেন না? কত নিরীহ দেশবাসী যে আত্মীয়স্বজনের সাহচার্য্য হতে বঞ্চিত হয়ে অকারণে জেলখানায় পচে মরছেন তার ইয়ত্তা নাই। কত অনাথ পরিবার একমাত্র রোজগেরে অভিভাবকের অভাবে ধ্বংস হয়ে গেল। নিরাপত্তা বন্দী যদি চট্টগ্রাম কি মেদিনীপুর জেলার অধিবাসী হন তবে আর রক্ষা নেই। একবার যদি পরম কারুণিক পুলিসের খেয়ালে খুসীমত জেলখানার পাঁচিলের মধ্যে ঢুকেন তবে আর বাইরে আসার কোন উপায় নাই—তা তিনি যত নিরাপরাধই হউন না বা তাঁর অভাবে আত্মীয়স্বজনের যত বিপদই ঘটুক। একান্ত আপনার জনের বিপদ জেনেও যখন কোন অসহায় নিরাপত্তা বন্দী কিছু করার উপায় খুঁজে পায় না তখন তাঁর মনের অবস্থা কিরূপ হয়, কি মর্ম্মান্তিক দুঃখের মধ্যে সে পড়ে তা বর্ণনা করার ভাষা আমার নেই। ভুক্তভোগী ছাড়া একথা কেউ বুঝবে না। নিরাপত্তা বন্দীরা যে পাগল হন তা সাধ করে হন না; কয়েকটি দৃষ্টান্ত দেব, শুনুন।

শ্রীযুক্ত সঞ্জীবপ্রসাদ সেন, বাড়ী, পোঃ ও গ্রাম আনোয়ারা, চট্টগ্রাম জেলা। ভদ্রলোক চট্টগ্রাম পাওনিয়র ব্যাঙ্কের ম্যানেজার ছিলেন। মাসিক ১৫০৲ টাকা বেতন; একদা নিরাপত্তা বন্দী

হলেন। কেন যে হলেন তা আজ পর্য্যন্ত তিনিও জানেন না, আমরাও জানি না। তাঁর পরিবারের একমাত্র পুরুষ ছিলেন তিনি। ৮১ বৎসরের বৃদ্ধা মাতা, নিজের স্ত্রী, ১১ বৎসরের একটি কন্যা, ৮ বৎসরের একটি কন্যা, ৪ বৎসরের একটি শিশু পুত্র ও আর একটি ১½ বৎসরের শিশু থাকল চট্টগ্রামে। আর তাঁকে ধরে এনে আলিপুর Central Jailএ নিরাপত্তা বন্দী করে রাখা হল। বহু আবেদন-নিবেদন সত্ত্বেও একান্ত অসহায় পরিবারবর্গের আজ পর্য্যন্ত এক পয়সা ভাতার ব্যবস্থা হলো না। ভদ্রলোকের স্ত্রী সাংঘাতিকভাবে অসুস্থা হয়ে পড়েন। মৃত্যুকালে স্বামীর সঙ্গে শেষ দেখা করার জন্য সরকারের নিকট কাতর আবেদন জানালেন। পাছে বৃটিশ সাম্রাজ্য ধ্বংস হয় এই ভয়ে সে আবেদনে কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্ণপাত করলেন না। অসহায়া ভদ্র মহিলা একান্ত ভগ্ন মনে শেষ নিঃশ্বাস ত্যাগ করলেন। সুদূর চট্টগ্রামের গ্রামে পুরুষ অভিভাবকহীন অবস্থায় ৮১ বৎসরের বৃদ্ধার তখন কয়েকটি শিশুকে নিয়ে কেমন অবস্থা তা অনুমেয়। একমাত্র রোজগেরে পুরুষ জেলে বন্দী, পারিবারিক ভাতাও পাওয়া গেল না সুতরাং অনাহারে মৃত্যু ছাড়া আর কোনও পথ নেই। কিছুদিন পরে খবর এল এই বৃদ্ধাও অসুস্থা। জানি না শেষ পর্য্যন্ত তাঁরই বা কি হলো। এখন আলীপুর জেলে সঞ্জীববাবুর মুখে অন্ন না রুচলে তাঁকে দোষ দেওয়া যায় না। তাঁর মানষিক অবস্থা একবার কল্পনা করুন।

বিবাহের অল্প কয়েকদিন পূর্ব্বে শ্রীরাধাগোবিন্দ ভঞ্জ গ্রেপ্তার হন। তিনি কমলা বুক ডিপোতে ৬০৲ টাকা মাহিনায় চাকুরী করিতেন। তিনি মেদিনীপুরের অধিবাসী অথচ তাঁহাকে রাখা হয়েছে ঢাকায়। বাড়ীতে অতি বৃদ্ধা মাতা আছেন। ইনি গ্রেপ্তার হয়েছেন ১৯৪২ সনের অক্টোবর মাসে অথচ বহু আবেদন-নিবেদন সত্ত্বেও ভাতার কোন ব্যবস্থা হলো না।

শ্রীপূর্ণচন্দ্র চক্রবর্ত্তী, মেদিনীপুরের অধিবাসী। বাড়ীতে অতি বৃদ্ধা ভগ্নস্বাস্থ্য মাতা, স্ত্রী ও নাবালক পুত্র ছাড়া আর কেহ নাই। মাতার নিদারুণ অসুস্থতার জন্য এঁকে দুবার paroleএ বাড়ী যেতে দেওয়া হয়েছে। কিছুদিন পূর্ব্বে তাঁর বাড়ীতে ডাকাতি হয়েছে অথচ পুলিস এর কোন তদন্ত পর্য্যন্ত করল না।

শ্রীত্রৈলক্য দাস, বাড়ী মেদিনীপুর। ইনি ডায়মণ্ড হারবারে খাদি কর্ম্মী ছিলেন। বাড়ীতে অতি বৃদ্ধা বিধবা মাতা ও কয়েকটি নাবালক ভাই ছাড়া আর কেউ নাই। বহু কষ্টে যদি বা ১৫৲ টাকা ভাতা বরাদ্দ হোল তথাপি তাহা ২৪-পরগণায় দেওয়া হবে কি মেদিনীপুরে দেওয়া হবে এই বিতর্কের মধ্যে পড়ে আজ পর্য্যন্ত ভাতা যথাস্থানে পেঁৗছিল না। এইসব কথা ভাবতে ভাবতে ত্রৈলক্য বাবুর মাথার গোলযোগ উপস্থিত হয়েছে। তিনি সমস্ত রাত্রি মা মা বলে কি করুণ কান্নাই কাঁদেন।

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমার আর সময় নেই, নতুবা আমি দৃষ্টান্তের পর দৃষ্টান্ত দিতে পারতাম যে কি পুঞ্জীভূত ব্যথা ও বেদনা জেলের মধ্যে জমাট বেঁধে উঠেছে। যাঁরা রাজনৈতিক বন্দীদের মুক্তির ব্যবস্থা করবার জন্যই কেবল মন্ত্রিদলে প্রবেশ করেছিলেন তাঁরা আজ কি কৈফিয়ৎ দিবেন? গত দিনের ভীমসেন বিপ্লবী বীর শ্রীনরেন্দ্রনারায়ণ চক্রবর্ত্তী বর্ত্তমানে খাজা স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিনের দক্ষিণ হস্ত স্বরূপ। শ্রীযুক্ত সত্যপ্রিয় বানার্জীর পুত্রকে আটক করে পরে ছেড়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে বলে তিনি সেদিন লম্ফ প্রদান করছিলেন। কিন্তু তাঁর পরম বন্ধু সত্যপ্রিয় বাবু আজও কেন নিরাপত্তা বন্দী? নিশ্চয়ই তিনি শ্রীনরেন্দ্রনারায়ণ থেকে বড় বিপ্লবী নন। নরেন্দ্র বাবু যদি Assembly কক্ষে সশরীরে বর্ত্তমান থাকলে বৃটিশ সাম্রাজ্য ধ্বংস না হয় তবে তার পরম বন্ধু শ্রীসত্যপ্রিয় ব্যানার্জীর বেলাতেই বা এত ভয় কেন?

Mrs. HEMOPROVA MAJUMDAR : আমি নিরাপত্তা বন্দীদের সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলতে চাই। তাদের বন্দী করে রাখার কোন কারণ নেই। আজ যখন দেশের লোক না খেতে পেয়ে মরছে

তখন দেশের নেতাদের এইভাবে বন্দী করে রাখার কি হেতু আছে? কোন সভ্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট এইভাবে ব্যক্তি স্বাধীনতা হরণ করতে পারে না। প্রায় ৪০ বৎসর পূর্ব্বে স্বর্গীয় অশ্বিনীকুমার দত্ত প্রভৃতি বাংলার ৮ জন জননায়ককে যখন বিনা বিচারে আবদ্ধ করবার প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত হয়েছিল তখন তদানীন্তন Secretary of State Lord Morley বলেছিলেন "এই প্রস্তাব কোন সভ্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের যোগ্য নয়"।

যখন অন্তর্বিপ্লব আরম্ভ হয় সেই সময়ে সাময়িকভাবে লোকের ব্যক্তিগত স্বাধীনতা হরণ করার রীতি আছে। যে মুহূর্ত্তে অন্তর্বিপ্লব ক্ষান্ত হয়ে যায় তখন বিনাবিচারে কাউকে বন্দী করে রাখা যেতে পারে না। আমি শুধু এই কথা বলব যে আজ বাংলা দেশে কোন রাজনৈতিক হাঙ্গামা নেই, দেশের লোক না খেয়ে মরে যাচ্ছে, আজ দেশের নেতাদের মুক্ত করে না দেবার কি কারণ আছে একথা জিজ্ঞাসা করার অধিকার আমাদের আছে। আমি এই কথা বলব যে যে সমস্ত প্রদেশে গভর্ণরের শাসন চলছে সে দেশের যত নিরাপত্তা বন্দীকে মুক্তি দেওয়া হয়েছে আমাদের প্রদেশে ততটা হয় নাই। সভাপতি মহোদয়—এ সম্বন্ধে আপনার মারফতে আমি কয়েকটি কথা জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই। এ সম্বন্ধে স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন বা মুসলিম লীগকে বলবার কিছু নেই। আমাদের যে দলত্যাগী পঞ্চরত্ন ট্রেজারী বেঞ্চ অলঙ্কৃত করছেন তাঁদের জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই তাঁরা যে বলেছিলেন "আমরা সমস্ত নিরাপত্তা বন্দীদের মুক্ত করে দেব", তার কি করলেন? তাদের দলের একজন মহামান্য ব্যক্তি বলেছিলেন শরৎ বাবুকে মুক্ত করা আমার জীবনের একমাত্র কাজ। আর একজন যার প্রাঞ্জল ভাষায় কলিকাতা নগরীর পার্কগুলি মুখরিত হয়ে উঠেছিল, দেশের নিরাপত্তা বন্দীদের মুক্তির জন্য যাঁর চোখের জল এখনও পার্কের মাটির ভিতর থেকে পাওয়া যায়—সেই যে প্রহেলিকাময় মানুষটি, যিনি আজ সরকারী দল অলঙ্কৃত করছেন, তিনি এ সম্বন্ধে একেবারেই নীরব। তাঁরা যে কথা বলে গিয়েছিলেন, কাগজের মারফতে ঘোষণা করেছিলেন তা যদি করে না থাকেন তাঁদের উচিত ছিল সেখান থেকে বেরিয়ে আসা। স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিনকে বলবার কিছু নেই, তিনি প্রাণহীন। দেশের লোকের কথা জানেন না। ধনীর দুলাল বোঝেন না বাংলার ছেলে-মেয়েদের কতখানি দুঃখ। কিন্তু যাঁরা বড় গলায় বলেছিলেন আমরা দেশের নিরাপত্তা বন্দীদের মুক্ত করে দেব, তাঁদেরই আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করছি তাঁরা এ সম্বন্ধে কি বলতে চান?

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: Sir, I desire to say a few words in reply to what has just fallen from the lips of Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi. I hope he did not speak on behalf of our party when he spoke about the Ulemas. What he said in that connection, I think, is his individual opinion. There are Ulemas and Ulemas, Sir. There are Ulemas for whom we have the highest respect. Some of them adorn our societies and will continue to do so. We always require their guidance and hold them in highest esteem.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I will just take one minute, Sir, to put to Sir Nazimuddin a question regarding the method of censoring letters for security prisoners. For want of time I am making a present of these three letters. One is addressed to my leader, Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy by Mr. Rajkumar Chakravarty, the whole bottom of which was taken off with a pair of scissors. The second letter is addressed to me where you will find windows made and the third is what a good artist will find some kind of inspiration from the kind of censor that is going on.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Are these letters being exhibited, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: He is not making an exhibit of these letters and they will not form part of the proceedings.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I will make a present of these censored and passed letters with marks of censorship and would request the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin to see if there is any rule for censoring in this heartless fashion.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, at the very outset I should like to dissociate myself from what has been expressed by Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi. I do not think there is any Mussalman who can blame the Ulemas in general (loud noise from the Coalition Benches) here, Sir, I am speaking as a Mussalman and I say again that no Mussalman can condemn the Ulemas as a class. This is definitely against Islam (loud noise again from a section of the Coalition Benches).

Now, Sir, I shall refer to the debate proper and leave the matter introduced by Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Loud noise again from a section of the Coalition Party)——

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble the Leader of the House is speaking and you are members belonging to his party. I hope you will not disturb him in this way.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I was just saying that I shall leave the matter introduced by Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi——

Mr. ABUL HASHIM: Don't enter into controversial matters.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Abul Hashim, the Hon'ble the Home Minister is speaking and the time at our disposal is short. Is it not desirable that you should not speak while he is on his legs?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I do plead guilty to the charge that has been levelled by Mr. Radha Nath Das about overcrowding in jails. There is no doubt that at present our jails are frightfully overcrowded and it is most unfortunate that this state of affairs exists. We have tried our level best to reduce the congestion and although we have tried our best owing to the various causes which are absolutely beyond our control it is not possible to do anything in the matter because you cannot construct jails now at the present time owing to lack of building materials. (Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal: Why should there be any necessity for that?)

We have tried releases also to a large extent. (Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal: To make room for politicals.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, there ought not to be any running comment.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: But still we have not succeeded, and this is a serious problem. I also admit that at one time, specially in the beginning when a large number of these security prisoners were to be provided with equipment, there was some delay, but I am now in a position as far as equipment is concerned to say that the grievances have been reduced to a minimum, and as far as political security prisoners are concerned we are trying to redress their legitimate grievances as far as possible.

In this connection I would just like to say something in reply to the speech that was made by Mrs. Hemaprova Mazumdar. She has made bitter

attacks on my colleagues but I would like to remind her that she was supporting the Ministry that was responsible for putting these people in jail and she was supporting those persons who were not in a position to remove any of their grievances which we have by the grace of God been able to do to a very large extent. Either you support or withdraw your support. You cannot take up two attitudes. You cannot keep on supporting those persons who were responsible for putting them in jail and keeping on supporting those persons who were not in a position to remove the legitimate grievances of their people and at the same time come and condemn those who have been able, if not completely, at least to release some of them and improve their lot while they have been in jail. (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: It is not true.)

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Those people did not get office under false pretence.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I do not like to enter into a controversy at this time as the time at my disposal is very short, but the honourable members on the other side know very well that what has been achieved by us in the time that we have been there was not possible when they were in office. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Simply because of the Government of India.) I may tell here, Sir, that in a very large number of cases allowances for security prisoners that were rejected by the previous Minister were allowed on the recommendations of my colleagues who were allowed to review these cases and 80 per cent. of their recommendations were accepted.

Sir, you will find that we have so improved the conditions that in today's Jail debate—without meaning any offence—no leader has taken part in the discussion today. (Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: They have confidence in their followers.) Therefore, I will not take much time of the House. I realise that there is room for improvement in the jail administration and the case of division III prisoners which was also ventilated here in the House certainly requires looking into. But at the present time we are so overworked—there are so many other problems—that these necessary jail reforms cannot be undertaken until, I believe, after the war. (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: After the war—good. Cold storage.)

As far as treatment by doctors in hospitals is concerned, if any specific case is brought to my notice I can only have an enquiry into it, but I cannot imagine doctors who are supposed to be engaged on humanitarian work to be going out of their way to ill-treat prisoners. It is, I think, something psychologically contradictory. If there are any persons who are moved by humanitarian conditions it is the medical practitioners, and to accuse them of inhuman treatment seems to me something radically wrong.

I will again take this opportunity to place our difficulties. We are asked to make relaxations. We are asked to give concessions but when those concessions are abused it becomes very difficult. I admit that one person abuses but the result is that the others cannot get those concessions. As I said the other day here, very recently we sent a security prisoner for treatment to the Presidency Jail and he has absconded from the hospital. Dr. Sanyal is very surprised but he can take it from me that it is a fact

(Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I would not question your fact as we do not know the name.) I do not remember the name just now, but it is not advisable to tell the name. The conduct of this one prisoner means that there will be on security grounds objections in legitimate cases also where they will want to go to the hospital. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is that the reason why Soumendra Tagore is not being sent to hospital although he has been ailing?) So, this is the position with which we are faced.

Sir, I have nothing very much to add to what I have already stated and I can assure the members that I am always prepared to look into any legitimate grievances of any class of prisoners whatever they may be.

The motion of Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs. 1,10,05,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu that the demand of Rs. 1,10,05,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Radhanath Das that the demand of Rs. 1,10,05,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Sanaullah that the demand of Rs. 1,10,05,000 for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Naximuddin that a sum of Rs. 1,10,05,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlements" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 6-55 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Thursday, the 23rd March, 1944, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 23rd March, 1944, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 13 Hon'ble Ministers and 202 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Status of Legislative, Bengal Council and Assembly Departments.

*183. **Mr. C. GRIFFITHS:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Legislative Department is a department of the Bengal Secretariat and the Assembly and the Council Departments are attached to the Home Department?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): The Legislative Department is a department of the Secretariat. The Bengal Legislative Assembly and the Bengal Legislative Council Departments are not attached to the Home Department but are independent departments outside the Secretariat.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer given will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us why the assistants of the Legislative and Assembly Departments are getting differential treatment in regard to the same line of service with those of the Bengal Secretariat?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Differential treatment might have existed earlier, but there is no differential treatment now.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether they are getting the benefit of promotion and pay equally with those in the Secretariat?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: They should be treated in the same way, and they should get the same pay and privilege on promotion as if in the same line of service.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in the matter of status and in the matter of emoluments these assistants in the Assembly and Council Departments are treated on the same footing as corresponding clerks of the Secretariat?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not exactly aware whether they are treated on the same footing or not.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer just now given will the Hon'ble Minister kindly tell us if there is any justification for the continuance of the differential treatment to the assistants of these departments with regard to the different line of service?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There cannot be any justification if they are differentially treated as they should belong to the same line of service with the Secretariat.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state clearly whether these assistants of the Council and Assembly Departments are governed by a separate autonomy?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That has already been stated in the reply.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer that there is no justification now does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to issue directions or instructions to that effect?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want to make it clear that so far as assistants of these departments are concerned if there is a differential treatment, certainly there is no justification. That is what I said.

Grant of family allowance to Babu Bhupal Chandra Panda.

***184. Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that—

(*i*) Babu Bhupal Chandra Panda, Secretary, Midnapore District Communist Party, was arrested at Kharagpur station in 1942, made a security prisoner under section 26 of the Defence of India Rules and has been kept in detention in the Midnapore Central Jail since his arrest;

(*ii*) he was the only earning member of his family before his arrest;

(*iii*) he sent several petitions to the Government praying for the grant of suitable monthly allowance for the maintenance of his family; and

(*iv*) up to September, 1943, no family allowance was granted to him?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why no action was taken in the matter?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) No.

(*iii*), (*iv*) and (*b*) Yes. An allowance of Rs.20 per mensem has been granted to the prisoner with effect from 28th October, 1942, to 29th February, 1944.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us the date of arrest of this prisoner?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He was arrested on 28th October, 1942.

Bombing in Feni.

***185. Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Civil Defence) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that—

(*i*) a number of air bases are under construction within the Feni subdivision;

(*ii*) three of these air bases have been bombed by the enemy more than once;

(*iii*) two of the bases are situated in villages 5 or 6 miles away from the Feni town;

(*iv*) as a result of air raids in December last 45 deaths occurred at Lemna and in one private house alone 17 deaths occurred, three only surviving. Several persons were wounded besides destruction of other properties;

(*v*) more than two months have elapsed but no A.R.P. arrangements for sounding siren even have been made as yet;

(*vi*) the lives and properties of the civil population living close to the bases, within a radius of half a mile from the extremities of the bases, have been rendered most unsafe; and

(*vii*) the civil population have to spend sleepless nights, particularly moonlit nights, and have become much panic-stricken?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of—

(*i*) taking immediate steps for the safety of the lives and properties of the civil population living within a distance from the bases exposed to dangers of bombing by enemy planes;

(*ii*) giving relief to those whose properties have been destroyed or damaged and who have been rendered homeless; and

(*iii*) paying compensation to the dependants of those who were killed and to the wounded on account of air raids by the enemy?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) On grounds of security I am not in a position to furnish any.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to show how security will be affected if the information wanted is supplied?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The question deals with location of aerodromes and certainly the honourable member will realise that it is not in the interest of public safety and security to disclose that information.

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the lives and properties of people living near about air bases are exposed to danger from bombing by enemy planes?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Naturally there is some amount of danger. The Chief Minister specially visited these places to see what special arrangements have been or can be made to protect the civilian lives in case of aerial attacks.

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the remedy open to these people for these grievances?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: In view of the fact that the question itself contains some information, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to

state whether the publication of the question itself gives out some points against security?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is in a position to inform the House whether any air raids have occurred since the beginning of the war in Feni?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I refer the honourable member to communiques that have been issued by Government from time to time.

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any relief has been given to the persons whose properties have been destroyed or damaged by air raids?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what A.R.P. arrangements have been made in those areas to meet the coming peril?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of any coming peril.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether any arrangement for sounding sirens in those localities has been made?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any compensation has been paid to dependants of those who were wounded or killed as a result of air raids?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already replied to that.

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the maximum assessment of the value of each life in this connection?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken by the Government for assuring the people of the locality that precautionary and salvage operations have been taken?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No steps are necessary because the public are already aware that Government have taken sufficient steps to give relief and also to undertake A.R.P. measures.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: What are the steps taken in regard to which the public are already aware?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There are a lot of things; there have been slit trenches, first aid posts, ambulances, rescue parties and fire-fighting services and demolition squads and many other things.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the total amount paid to the dependants of the deceased?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: If I say that no arrangement is made——

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot put a question like that.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when they have made arrangements for siren and A.R.P. in that area?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Arrangement is made to give the alarm either by siren or whistle or in some other way to convey information to the public.

Number of persons tried and convicted under Special Courts Ordinance (No. II of 1942).

***186. Rai HARENDRA NATH CHOUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Defence) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many persons in Bengal have been tried and convicted under the Special Criminal Courts Ordinance, 1942 (Ordinance II of 1942);

(*b*) how many of them have served out their sentences;

(*c*) how many convicted by the Special Courts have been undergoing their sentences as yet;

(*d*) whether the Government propose to release them;

(*e*) the cases of how many have been transferred to ordinary Courts for trial in accordance with the new Ordinance passed after the decision of the Federal Court; and

(*f*) what steps, if any, have been taken by Government to compensate those who have served either in full or in part the illegal sentences passed under the aforesaid Ordinance No. II.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Tried—3,775 and Convicted—3,251.

(*b*) 2,248.

(*c*) 265.

(*d*) In view of the Hon'ble High Court's Order, dated the 3rd August, 1943, regarding cases arising out of the Special Criminal Courts Ordinance, 1942 (Ordinance No. II of 1942), directing that persons aggrieved may move the lower appellate Courts and the lower appellate Courts may deal with them in the light of the High Court's judgment in the case of Sushil Kumar Bose *vs.* the Emperor (Misc. Case No. 65 of 1943), it was not considered necessary for the Government to take up the question of release.

(*e*) and (*f*) In view of the answer to clause (*d*) this question does not arise.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in view of the opinion of the High Court that these trials were illegal, Government have considered it desirable or not to bring up those cases before the regular courts?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The prisoners have been informed that they can appeal against the conviction to the District Judge for retrial.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact or not that the High Court expressed the opinion that it would be the duty of the regular courts in their respective jurisdictions to bring up these files and quash the judgment at sight?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the High Court definitely enjoined the local courts to *suo motu* take up those cases irrespective of any appeal from the parties convicted?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The answer is in the negative.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has read or seen the judgment?

Khan Bahadur MOHMMED ALI: A copy of the judgment was sometime ago placed on the Library Table.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he went through the judgment or not?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Relevant portions of the judgment are already in the file.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on what basis he asserts that the direction of the High Court was not to the lower courts to take up these matters *suo motu* and quash the proceedings?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It is from the judgment of the Chief Justice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Which portion of it?

Khan Bahadur MOHMAMED ALI: I cannot quote the portion off-hand.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that nowhere in the judgment is there any suggestion that the prisoners will have to appeal?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is not correct.

Government grant for construction of Maternity Home at Senhati, Khulna.

***187. Mr. J. N. GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Rs.4,000 was granted by the Government for constructing a Maternity Home at Senhati in the district of Khulna?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) when the money was paid;
(*ii*) to whom it was paid;
(*iii*) under what condition it was paid;
(*iv*) whether the Fund of the Maternity Home was deposited in any Bank;
(*v*) who is the drawee of the Fund from the Bank;
(*vi*) whether the construction of the building is completed;

(*vii*) whether any Lady Health Visitor was appointed by the Government for the Home; and

(*viii*) whether the management is under a Committee?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*)(*viii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) when it was formed;

(*ii*) by whom; and

(*iii*) who are the members of the Committee?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the accounts of the Senhati Maternity Home were ever audited by any Government official?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of having the accounts of the Fund audited and the records examined by Government official?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*)(*i*) In 1941.

(*ii*) To the Organising Secretary of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Senhati.

(*iii*) A copy of the Government order is laid on the Library Table.

(*iv*), (*vii*) and (*viii*) Yes.

(*v*) The Organising Secretary of the Centre.

(*vi*) No.

(*c*)(*i*) In 1940.

(*ii*) By the Organising Secretary of the Centre.

(*iii*) A list of members is laid on the Library Table.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) As the Committee is responsible for the maintenance of the centre, its accounts are not ordinarily audited by Government officers. The suggestion of the honourable member is, however, being considered.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the name of the Organising Secretary?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is already there.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the conditions have been observed?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Yes. It has been proposed to send the Circle Assistant Director of Public Health there to inspect the institution.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the accounts of the Senhati Maternity Home have not been audited by any Government official?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: The Circle Assistant Director of Public Health has been asked to proceed there and to look into the accounts.

Opening of controlled shop and supply of paddy in Jessore district.

*110. **Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the amount of rice that the Government have distributed up to date in the district of Jessore to sell at control price;

(*ii*) whether any controlled shop has been opened to sell rice in the district;

(*iii*) if so,—

(1) the number, and

(2) locations,

of such shops;

(*iv*) what measures have been adopted up to date to relieve the people of Jessore to get rice at a moderate price; and

(*v*) the number of people in the said district that are passing their days in starvation?

(*b*) Do the Government contemplate to sell some quantity of rice at controlled rate to certain rich men of the district for free distribution amongst the poorer classes of people?

(*c*) If the reply to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action he proposes to take in the matter?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): On the 5th July, 1943, the answer was as follows:—

(*a*) (*i*) Nil.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) One at Bongaon.

(*iv*) Action is now being taken to supply paddy at the rate of Rs. 9 per maund in Narail and Magura subdivisions.

(*v*) No information is available.

(*b*) and (*c*) I shall consider the matter if any such proposal is received.

Point of Order.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. I put it to you this. The question was asked and the answer is there. The Minister in charge or his deputy is giving a reply as on 5th July, 1943. It is certainly ridiculous that anybody should read out a reply of that character. I hope, Sir, you will as custodian of the House not permit this kind of answer being given. If there is no answer we can understand the position. If an answer is given it must be up to date.

Mr. SPEAKER: The position is this. I think this question came up before the House once and it was held over only for that. At that time the Deputy Speaker was in the chair. I consulted the Deputy Speaker also and I think that neither the Deputy Speaker nor the Speaker can come to your rescue. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Technically that is true.) It is for you to find out your remedy. The question was received in office on the 22nd June, 1943. It was sent to Government on the 26th June, 1943. The answer was due on the 5th July, 1943. The answer was received in the

Legislative Assembly Department on the 16th February, 1944. It may be that it was the convenient date for Government to get the statistics up to. It is not for me to explain. I can only say that it is not for me to say that the Minister must answer the question in a particular way.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Recruitment of Sub-Inspectors, Calcutta Police.

87. **Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there has been direct recruitment of Sub-Inspectors of Police in Calcutta Police in the year 1943-44?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): Yes, in June and August, 1943. No recruitment has yet been made in the current year.

Contribution by security prisoners of the Presidency Jail for the destitute.

88. **Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*a*) that the security and state prisoners of Presidency Jail applied to Government in August, 1943, for permission to feed at least 200 famine-stricken destitute people in Calcutta every day from their ration when the reported death rate in Calcutta was well over 100 per day;

(*b*) that the requisite permission was not given;

(*c*) that after the lapse of about three months, permission was given in November, 1943, to contribute from their allowance of rations only to Bengal Central Relief Fund;

(*d*) that the security and state prisoners have registered their strong objection to being denied the right of contributing to non-official Relief Committees of their choice, *e.g.*, Bengal Relief Committee, Mayors' Relief Committee, All-India Women's Relief Committee, Hindu Mahasabha Relief Committee, Moslem League Relief Committee, Marwari Relief Committee;

(*e*) that the security prisoners of the Dum Dum Central Jail have been allowed to feed the famine-stricken people from their own ration and they feed over 1,000 people twice daily during the acute crisis and are still feeding about 200 people daily even now;

(*f*) that the security and state prisoners of Presidency Jail collected from amongst themselves more than 600 pieces of clothes for distribution to the destitute people and asked for requisite permission to do so but have not been granted the permission;

(*g*) if so, the reason they were not permitted to do so; and

(*h*) that some security and state prisoners in Presidency Jail have sent a representation to the Hon'ble Minister, stating that if the requisite permission to contribute from their ration and clothing to non-official Relief Committees be not given they would be compelled to take upon themselves voluntary sufferings?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) to (*d*) and (*h*) Yes.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) Yes; but the prisoners have since been permitted to give their old clothings to charity.

(*g*) Does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that Government were always asking for co-operation of non-official relief committees, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to answer (*d*), why permission was refused to security prisoners to contribute to non-official relief committees?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government considered this question very carefully and came to the decision that it would be permissible for the security prisoner to send his own contribution in kind, but Government realised that if they gave permission to security prisoners to donate in cash to non-official relief organisations the money might be used for party purposes or for other purposes. Therefore Government decided not to give that permission.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to question (*h*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what reply, if any, has been given to the representation that was made by some security and State prisoners in the Presidency Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what materials Government had in their possession to enable them to conclude, as the Hon'ble Minister has just now suggested, that contributions to non-official relief organisations might go for party purposes?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that 13 prisoners in the Presidency Jail are taking half meals by way of protest against this refusal?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of that.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Is the Hon'ble Minister in a position to assure the House that none of the contributions received by the Bengal Central Relief Committee was utilised for party propaganda?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister consider it desirable to enquire as to whether the security prisoners are going on with half meals from the 16th February last as a protest against this refusal?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that certain security prisoners have been saving their rations by underfeeding themselves with a view to share their rations with the destitute starving people outside, and if so, what is happening to the ration that is saved thereby?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government have no objection to donations, as I have already stated, in kind.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if donation in the shape of rice or *atta* is permissible to be given over?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir. Even cash can be given to Government Relief Funds.

Combating malaria by anti-pistia operation.

89. Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether he is aware of the method of combating malaria by the anti-pistia operations;

(*ii*) how the said method has worked in the districts of Bengal, particularly the district of Murshidabad;

(*iii*) the theory involved in the method;

(*iv*) the experiments made and the results obtained in the Khosbaspur and Gokarna villages of the district of Murshidabad, and the period during which such experiments have been made;

(*v*) the contents of the letter, dated the 12th March, 1942, addressed to the District Magistrate of Murshidabad by the Professor of Medical Entomology, Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine, and the contents of the letter of Sir Malcolm Watson referred to in the said letter, copy of which was forwarded to the said District Magistrate; and

(*vi*) whether Government have any objection to making large-scale application of pistia-removal method as a measure of anti-malarial activity?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*vi*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the Government's attitude to the above method?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmed): (*a*)(*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) No information is available regarding the application of this method except in a few localities in Birbhum, Bankura and Murshidabad districts where the results are conflicting.

(*iii*) The theory is that mosquito larvæ feed on pistia plants and damage their intestine and that such damage makes the adult mosquito liable to malarial infection. This theory has not been proved.

(*iv*) Pistia was cleared in Gokarna village and left uncleared in Khosbaspur. The Public Health Department made periodic observations on the

incidence of malaria in these villages from July, 1923, to December, 1938. There were several fallacies in the experiments conducted by the District Health Officer, Murshidabad, the propounder of this theory. The data obtained failed to show that pistia removal controlled the causation of malaria in the adult population, among the children or the new born.

(*v*) A copy of each of the letters is laid on the Library Table.

(*vi*) Yes. No useful purpose will be served by carrying out large-scale removal of pistia, as removal of pistia only, to the exclusion of other aquatic vegetation, will have no effect on the incidence of malaria.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that since the head of the Public Health Department was not favourably disposed towards this method, therefore Government did not give a fair trial?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in some of the Police barracks this method has been applied with very welcome results?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: There have been some results but not complete results.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in Military barracks also this method has been tried with good results?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I have already stated that there has been some result but not complete result.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is prepared to undertake this experiment on a larger scale so that if it is helpful it will get a chance of being accepted by Government?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The honourable member is referred to answer (*vi*).

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*vi*), where it is stated that no useful purpose will be served by carrying out large-scale removal of pistia, as the removal of pistia only, to the exclusion of other aquatic vegetation, will have no effect on the incidence of malaria, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any experiment has been made by Government:

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Yes; an experiment has been made this year and it has not proved very successful.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Where, how and to what extent has Government made experiments by removing pistia?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: It was done in Murshidabad with the help of the District Board.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that in none of these cases it was the Government but the District Board of Murshidabad who made that experiment?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Certainly, Government made that experiment and an Assistant Director of Public Health went there and helped the District Board in carrying on the experiment.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any money was granted to the District Board for carrying on that experiment?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: An officer of Government went there and helped the District Board in the matter.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: How many officers and how much money were allotted by Government for that purpose?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The Assistant Director of Public Health for Malaria went over there and helped the District Board in carrying on the experiment.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Where?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: In some villages in Murshidabad.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government is considering the desirability of making a large-scale experiment of this process which has already proved successful in a large number of cases?

Mr. SPEAKER: The answer has already been given.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Is it not a fact that the Government Public Health Department experiments show that 85 per cent of the anti-pistia operations have been successful?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I have already stated that the experiment was not found to be very successful but was only partially successful.

Expenditure incurred annually for maintaining additional Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies.

90. Khan Bahadur Maulvi AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what amount is incurred by Government annually in maintaining the additional 11 Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies; and

(*ii*) what improvement, if any, has been effected upon the working of the Co-operative Societies since the appointment of the additional Assistant Registrars?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing the classification of rural societies before and after the appointment of these Assistant Registrars year by year since 1935 up to 1943?

(*c*) If no improvement has been effected, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of (*i*) abolishing these posts, and (*ii*) increasing the number of field workers, *i.e.*, Supervisors, Auditors and Inspectors?

MINISTER in charge of the CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT and RURAL INDEBTEDNESS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal): (*a*)(*i*) Approximately Rs. 2 lakhs.

(*ii*) The process of depletion of capital of Central Banks to meet obligatory charges has been considerably arrested: stagnation in the movement has considerably been removed by organisation of a large number of new Societies, credit has been linked with production and marketing. The revenue position of Central Banks shows signs of improvement.

(*b*) The honourable member is referred to the Annual Report on the working of Co-operative Societies published every year.

(*c*) Does not arise.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

63—Extraordinary Charges in India.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 8,50,57,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India".

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100. Sir, I move this motion to raise a discussion about the maladministration of the Civil Supplies Department and wastage of public money.

এই যে ১৯৪৩ সনে বাংলার লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক অনশনে প্রাণত্যাগ করেছে, বাংলার সেই দারুণ দুর্ভিক্ষের জন্য এই Civil Supply Departmentই দায়ী। কোটী কোটী টাকা খরচ কোরে যে departmentটাকে বজায় রাখা হয়েছে দেশের লোকদের বাঁচাবার জন্য সেই departmentএর অনাচারে আজ লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক অনাহারে প্রাণত্যাগ করেছে, সেইটেই আমার বলবার বিষয়। ১৯৪২ সনে যখন denial policyর ফলে এবং রপ্তানির দরুণ আর মিলিটারীর জন্য খরিদ করার প্রভাবে বাংলায় খাদ্যশস্যের মূল্য বেড়ে চলেছিল, এবং খাদ্যের তহবিলও কমে আসছিল তখন ইউরোপীয় ব্যবসায়ীদের প্ররোচনায় Bengal Government একজন Purchasing Officer নিযুক্ত করেন, কিন্তু কোন দর নির্দ্দিষ্ট করেন না। সেই Purchasing Officer এসেই প্রথমে ১৩৲ টাকা দরে চাউল খরিদ করতে আরম্ভ করলেন, যখন বাজারে চালের দর ছিল ৯৷১০৲ টাকা। এইভাবে কিছুদিন চলতে লাগলো। তারপর ১৯৪৩ সনের মার্চ্চ মাসের শেষ ভাগে যখন এই departmentটা প্রতিষ্ঠিত হল তখন থেকেই দেশের অবস্থা ক্রমশঃ আরো খারাপ হতে চলেছে। Greater Control, lesser supply and higher price তখনকার দিনের নিয়ম হয়ে দাঁড়ালো। চালের দর বেঁধে দেবার সময় গভর্ণমেণ্ট ভুলে গিয়েছিলেন যে supply কি হবে—সেইটে আগে জানা দরকার। Mr. Speaker, Sir, তার ফলে কি দাঁড়িয়েছিলো? চালের দর বেঁধে দেবার আগে আমাদের মাননীয় সুরাবর্দ্দী সাহেবের একজন বন্ধু অল্প মূল্যে অনেক চাল অন্যান্য প্রদেশে কিনেছিলেন, সেই চাল পরে বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট অনেক বেশী মূল্যে কিনে নেন; এবং সেই দিন থেকেই বাংলায়ও দুর্ভিক্ষ আরম্ভ হয়। আমি বলতে চাই এই কথাটা—দরিদ্র দেশবাসীর বুকের রক্ত স্বরূপ যে টাকা সেই টাকা গভর্ণমেণ্ট এই departmentএর through দিয়ে অজস্র অপব্যয় করেছেন—যে অপব্যয়ের ফলে আমাদের বহুসংখ্যক দেশবাসীর দারুণ দুর্দ্দশ

ঘটেছে। এবং এখনো পর্য্যন্ত তাঁরা সাবধান হন নাই। যখন দেশে চাল ছিলো না তখন গভর্ণমেণ্ট বলে বেড়িয়েছিলেন—যথেষ্ট চাল আছে। এবং যথেষ্ট চাল আছে তাঁদের এই ভুয়া আশ্বাস প্রচারের ফলে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোকের জীবন নষ্ট হয়েছে। এই গভর্ণমেণ্টের কোন scheme ছিল না—খাদ্যনীতি সম্পর্কে। ইউনিয়নে ইউনিয়নে খাদ্যদ্রব্যের একটা করে ষ্টোর খুলবেন এরকম কোন scheme ছিল না। Food committe একটা কোরে মফঃস্বলের স্থানে স্থানে ছিল, সেগুলি দেশের লোকের টাকায় দেশগ্রামের লোকদের দ্বারাই সেগুলি চলেছে, গভর্ণমেণ্ট সেগুলি দেখেন নাই। এইভাবে আমাদের গভর্ণমেণ্ট দেশের দুর্ভিক্ষের প্রকৃত প্রতিরোধের পন্থার প্রতি দৃষ্টি না দিয়ে সকল দিক দিয়েই কেবল খরচ বাড়িয়েছেন আর waste করেছেন। আজ যদি প্রত্যেকটি ইউনিয়নে একটা union store থাকতো এবং সেখানে যদি একটা কোরে গভর্ণমেণ্ট নিজের ষ্টোর রাখতে পারতেন তাহলে চালের দর চড়বা মাত্র গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাঁদের চাল বাজারে ছেড়ে দিতে পারতেন এবং চালের দাম আর চড়তে পারতো না। কিন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্ট তা করেন নাই। এখনো যদি গভর্ণমেণ্ট বাংলা দেশে যে পাঁচ হাজার তিনশো ইউনিয়ন আছে,—যে টাকা নানানভাবে অপব্যয় করছেন, সেইটা বন্ধ কোরে, যদি সেই টাকায় প্রত্যেক ইউনিয়নে চাল রাখবার ব্যবস্থা করেন তাহলে আর চালের দাম বাড়তে পারবে না। চালের—বর্ত্তমানে যে দাম—সেটাও দুর্ভিক্ষের সময়কার মূল্য। চাল এখনো যে দরে বিক্রয় হচ্ছে সে দরে সকল লোকের কেনবার সামর্থ্য নাই। যদিও লোক এখন আগের চেয়ে কম মরছে, কিন্তু আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টকে সাবধান কোরে দিচ্ছি যদি এখন থেকেই তাঁরা ইউনিয়নে, ইউনিয়নে ষ্টোর না করেন তাহলে এবারের দুরবস্থা গত বারের চেয়েও বেশী হবে। এবং তাঁরা যদি দেশের প্রকৃতই মঙ্গল চান তবে দেশের টাকা দিয়ে এই রকম ছিনিমিনি খেলবেন না, যাতে দেশবাসীর—

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about—

(*i*) the utter failure of Government to control the price of rice and the necessity of controlling the other necessaries of life which are abnormally rising every day;

(*ii*) the utter apathy and sense of optimism displayed by Government in statements issued now and then in the face of increased rise in price and apprehended outbreak of famine in large areas of Province of Bengal; and

(*iii*) the failure of Government in feeding large number of starving people now in many areas in the Province of Bengal.

I also beg to move the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about——

(1) the difficulty of supply of the daily necessaries of life specially in the rural areas, viz., kerosene, sugar and even salt;

(2) the constitution and the function of the food committees and the village committees;

(3) administration of the cotton cloth and yarn order; and

(4) the difficulty of the supply of cotton cloth specially in the rural area, and the situation created by extending the time-limit for disposal of unstamped goods up to 31st March, 1944, by a Civil Supply Press Note, issued on the 2nd of March.

Sir, the motions deal with extraordinary charges and extraordinary situations which have brought insurmountable troubles, indescribable agonies and miseries, widespread starvation and diseases and innumerable deaths. The situations have been created by war—a war which has been thrust upon us by the British Imperialists. How I wish that I could echo the sentiments expressed by Mr. de Valera in his recent message to the nation "Even in our failures we were in a lasting sense victorious, we outlived the evil that was done to us and we exist today as a separate nation because we are willing to endure and we are not willing to yield". Morally, legally and equitably the public exchequer of Bengal should not bear a single pie towards the expenditure under this head. These expenditures properly should have been met by the Central Government—nay should be met by the United Nations for whose good this war is being conducted.

Sir, first of all I shall deal with cloth famine. There has been an unprecedented scarcity of cloth in the rural areas of Bengal mainly due to the maladministration of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order.

In Calcutta alone, the cotton goods of about 1,174 dealers were sealed by the Provincial Textile Controller in accordance with the Press note, issued on the 23rd December, 1943, but since then the stocks of only 75 parties have been tex-marked up till February, 1944. If the process of tex-marking continues at this rate, it will take about one year to complete the operation only in Calcutta. In mofussil large stocks have remained unstamped and so large stocks of cloth in Calcutta as well as in mofussil cannot be released for sale, thus resulting in cloth famine throughout the province though a very huge margin of 10 per cent. above the ex-mill price has been prescribed as the stamping fee.

Sir, so far as the mofussil area is concerned, the shortage of available transport facilities is mainly responsible for the cloth famine. From my experience as a relief worker for the last five months I am definitely of opinion that for military requirements the transport of civil requirements has been curtailed to such extent that the transport has been wellnigh impossible.

The Hon'ble Minister for Finance grew eloquent in his budget speech as to the services rendered by the Army in the matter of transport, but, believe me, Sir, my experience tells otherwise. One consignment of a few bales of blankets and clothes was consigned from here under military authority on the 8th of January, 1944, to Brahmanbaria, but it has not yet reached in the course of about two months and a half though the winter is now over. Booking by goods train has been closed. Merchants, therefore, come to Calcutta, purchase a large number of extra tickets in order to enable them to take small quantities of goods as personal luggages by bribing the railway officials and coolies on duty at the railway station. This Government is not at all alive to the necessity of impressing upon the Railway Administration to ensure a freer movement of goods within the province.

Sir, in answer to a question of mine on this subject, the Government reply was it does not consider the desiribility of moving the Railway Administration to ensure free movement of goods within this province. A critical situation has been created thereby in this matter.

Sir, in this connection I demand an explanation from the Government why the Provincial Textile Control Authorities are giving exemption to certain parties from the obligation of tex-mark and releasing their goods to the market. What considerations weighed with the authorities in giving such discriminatory exemption? This is clear nepotism to say the least.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I venture to make the following suggestions:—

(1) All sealed goods in Calcutta as well as in mofussil should immediately be released for sale with a condition that the goods should be sold within a month and if any dealer is found in possession of any such goods after the expiry of a month, his stocks will be confiscated. This will have the effect of easing the market.

(2) Bengal being a deficit province, the mill products of Bengal should not be allowed to be exported out of Bengal and Assam which should be treated as one zone.

(3) Transport facilities should immediately be increased with a view to ensure free movements.

(4) The wholesale dealers should not have any difficulty in getting the products from the mill at the rate they are entitled to get and the retailer should not have any difficulty to get the goods from the wholesale dealers.

(5) Handloom industry should be expanded and attempts should be made by the Government in that direction.

(6) Immediately the ban upon the branches of the All-India Spinners' Association throughout the province should be withdrawn with a view to encourage hand-spinning and hand-weaving.

(7) Before taking any steps by the Government in the matter of administration of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, the advice of the Provincial Textile Advisory Committee should be taken and their advice should be given due consideration.

Next, Sir, I shall deal with how the Government have failed to control the price of rice. In the *Calcutta Gazette*, dated 9th March, 1944, and 16th March, 1944, it has been published that during the weeks ending on 1st March, 1944, and 9th March, 1944, in places, viz., Barrackpore, Ranaghat, Jheniadaha, Dacca, Munshiganj, Manikganj, Narayanganj, Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Faridpur, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Noakhali, rice was not available in the open markets. In the *Jugantar*, dated 15th March, 1944, it has been reported that during the week ending on 11th March, 1944, coarse and medium rice sells at Rs. 19 to Rs. 20 per maund and fine Gobindabhog *atap* rice sells at Rs. 30 to Rs. 35 per maund at Comilla while in a corresponding week of the last year, coarse and medium rice used to sell at Rs. 15 to Rs. 16 and fine Gobindabhog rice selling at Rs. 22 to Rs. 25. So from the Government report it is clear that rice is not available in the open markets in many places and if it is available it sells at a price much above the control rates. The Government have utterly failed to control the price.

In the Council of State Mr. B. R. Sen, the Director-General of Food, has dwelt at length on the present food situation of Bengal. He has said that the Government had found in the procurement scheme of *aman* crops that the cultivators are holding on to their crops, in no districts they had brought into the markets more than 50 per cent. of what they would normally have brought up to this time of the year. In several districts it was much less than 25 per cent. The reason for this is mainly due to want of public confidence. Mr. B. R. Sen has said that we had to persevere in helping the return of public confidence and we must take steps to make the cultivators release their stocks by providing them with consumers goods at reasonable price; public confidence cannot be created when the cultivators find that they do not get other necessaries of life even salt at a reasonable price. Salt now sells in many places at prices varying from annas 8 to Re. 1 per seer. The prices of other necessaries of life have increased enormously.

Prices of articles for hutting have increased 1,000 per cent., implements of agriculture more than 1,000 per cent. and so on. This is the real situation, real picture in Bengal. Truly this dismal picture cast a gloom over me and every one who knows the situation. Lakhs of people are still starving, lakhs are homeless, many lakhs are diseased and every moment feeling the agonies of death. The question is how to remedy the situation. I am definitely of opinion that unless a true national Government be established, unless the people can feel that they are enduring for their salvation, unless they feel that this war is a war of freedom from domination, from wants, diseases and penury, unless the true patriots who are clapped in jail are released, we cannot think of any solution of the problem.

Conference convened by His Excellency the Governor of Bengal of Commissioners and District Officers, the retinue of officers—Director of Civil Supplies with his huge departments, Controller of Wheat and Wheat Products, Controller of Rationing, Regional Controller, Food Grain Purchase Officer, Special Relief Organisation Officer with their huge establishments, the statement issued therefrom, the paper "Grow More Food Campaign", with their corruption, bribery, nepotism, black-marketing, will not be able to solve the problem. The Government in the past have miserably failed to tackle the situation and will fail in future. Civil requirements have not in the past received the attention as the military requirements had. Difficulties in transport are mainly responsible to a great extent for this dismal state of things. In Calcutta even coke and salt have been scarce.

The Government which have miserably failed to control the price, the Government whose order as to the price is daily and openly disobeyed in open markets, the Government which cannot give protection to the people from greedy traders, the Government which is unsympathetic towards the aspiration of the people, the Government which is cruel, mischievous and communal in outlook, stands self-condemned.

With these few words I commend the motions for the acceptance of the House.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Can we not expect this courtesy from the Minister in charge of Civil Supplies to be present here in connection with an important debate like this? This is a matter of privilege, Sir. In

the Central Assembly the President at one time did insist that the Commander-in-chief must be present; otherwise the House could be adjourned. I think, Sir, you have also got a similar power.

Mr. SPEAKER: The difficulty is this. Personally, I must say that in this House there has been no occasion when a Minister has been compelled to be present. I do not know what happened in the Central Assembly. I will have to look into the matter. For the present I notice that the Hon'ble the Chief Minister who has moved this motion is present here, and some Parliamentary Secretaries who are attached to the Civil Supplies Department are also present here. In these circumstances I do not think that I can ask the Civil Supplies Minister to be present.

Mr. RAMIZUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to take step to stop—

(*i*) corruption and dishonesty prevalent amongst the officers of Civil Supply Department.

(*ii*) black-marketing.

Sir, the moving of this motion reminds me of the answer given by Sir Nazimuddin in the General Administration about direct and specific instances of dishonesty by some responsible officers. The answer has confirmed the apprehension of the public that even the Chief Minister directly or indirectly is in collusion with the dishonesty and corruption of his colleagues. (Cries of "Question" from Ministerialist benches.)

It is a surprise to me that a Chief Minister of a province instead of giving warning and threat of strict actions against dishonesty and corruption of the officers is found to be simply trying to evade it. It is nothing but a direct encouragement of corruption.

Sir, as far as my personal knowledge of mufassal goes, I know that the Supply Department is meant not for supplying foodstuff or any other necessary commodities to the public but for making some Supply Officers and some of the public who can bribe these officers rich overnight. The present Government for the sake of patronising some of their party men are appointing hundreds and thousands of temporary officers in this department. These temporary officers who are uncertain of their service and future life simply think of making some money in the meantime.

Speaking of the Sadar subdivision Comilla, particularly the western part of that subdivision is seriously affected by the distress and famine. This area consists of low lands and is a predominantly jute area and is mainly dependent on *aman* crop. The produce of paddy of that area cannot sustain the people of that area for more than 4 months on an average. For the rest 8 months the people of that area are dependent on others. But for the last one year no rice or paddy has yet been supplied to that area although 40 to 50 thousand people have died during the last few months due to no food, little food or rotten food and the subsequent outbreak of malaria, small-pox and cholera as a result of the loss of vitality of the people.

May I ask the Minister if any amount of rice or paddy has been stored in that area and, if so, where and what amount? If not, then what is the

necessity of maintaining the officer of the Supply Department? Rice is selling in that area even now at Rs. 19 to Rs. 21. No attempt is being made to bring down the price at the controlled rate. Eighty per cent. of the people have got no capacity to purchase at this high rate. Even in this month of *Chaitra* many people are starving or remain half-starved and God knows what is in store for them in the future.

The only thing which these officers do at present is to appoint some agents for the sale of kerosene and sugar. So far as my personal knowledge of my subdivision goes, most of the appointments of these agents were made in consideration of bribe. No sugar or kerosene is available to the public except through black-marketing. No step has yet been taken to stop black-marketing although I brought these matters to the notice of the District Magistrate and the Commissioner of the Division.

With these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion to raise a discussion about the desirability of utilising union boards in distribution of essential foodstuffs in the rural area.

Sir, I have got two things to say in this House. The first thing that I want to say is that in these days of Provincial Autonomy which has been functioning in this province for 7 years it should be our aim and policy to make our union boards workable and living organisations. If you leave the union boards alone and in the conditions in which they were at the beginning of our autonomous regime I want to say that we have not progressed at all in the matter of self-government, because only the members in this House within the 4 corners of this Assembly hall do not represent the country. If we want to educate the country we must educate the union boards in all matters of Government. The union boards must be imbued with the idea of self-help and also with ideas, educational, economic and sanitary and all other questions including the question of maintaining law and order. If we have progressed there, then certainly we can claim that progress in self-government has been made in this province.

Coming to the practical side relating to the matter of distribution of civil supplies I say that this is an opportunity which has been afforded to us in educating our union boards and the members of the union boards in the matter of self-government. In my own district when there was a scarcity of kerosene the Government officials, the bureaucracy, selected dealers in the rural area and instructed them to sell kerosene at controlled rates, but we got reports—and these were correct reports—that these dealers after giving a few drops to a few persons or a few first comers sold the rest of the stock at prices varying from 8 annas to Re. 1 per seer. When I approached the District Magistrate on this matter, he said that he had received no complaints from any one—though it was reported quite widely. Now, a poor villager who purchases 2 or 4 pice worth of kerosene cannot dare to complain against the dealer who has been selected by Government officials. There are substantial persons in the rural area but they themselves are guilty of this corrupt practice, because they purchase kerosene at a higher

price than the controlled rate. That being the fact there was no remedy at hand. Now, Sir, at that time I suggested that the services of union boards might be requisitioned which the District Magistrate kindly did. After the experience of a few months he found that black marketing had vanished though the supply had not been adequate and the people were not getting it according to their requirements.

There is another side of the question. Sir, to this I referred during the general discussion of the budget. The experience that we have in the matter of scarcity of salt is that people in the rural area do not believe that there is real scarcity of salt. They are under the impression that salt is there but it is only being used by the influential people. They feel that, being poor, their necessities are not being met with in the rural area. Now, my idea is that if Government allocate salt union by union after taking statistics of the population of each union and distribute the salt through the union board, in that case, the people will really see that they are getting their quota but there being not sufficient supply they are getting a meagre supply of it. It will also save the prestige of Government to some extent, but my main object is to utilise union boards in all matters in which their assistance may be profitably taken, in the matters of distribution of civil supplies—whether salt, kerosene, sugar or anything else. Even in the matter of procurement the help of the union boards will be of great value. At present I do not know what is the scheme of Government. We think that Government instead of taking statistics from their own officers should obtain them from the people themselves and I think that union board is the proper authority which can say what is its usual consumption for a month or for a year, or what is the need in each area. After ascertaining the information from each union board—if necessary it can be verified by Government—a system may be devised whereby if there is any excess produce it may be taken out of the union board area and the union board members may help in that process without any anxiety, without any uncertainty and without any apprehension for the future. Instead of that if Government officers——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion to raise a discussion about refusal of ration for *bhog* or offering to Hindu deities.

I further beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100.

My object in moving this motion is to raise a discussion about refusal to ensure a ration of *atap* rice to Hindu widows.

Sir, in introducing a rationing scheme, it is up to the Government to see that people do not unnecessarily suffer or that their religious susceptibilities are not wounded in any manner. Yet unfortunately speaking, from the haphazard manner in which the rationing schemes have been introduced, it appears that all the different aspects of the problems have not been fully and properly considered. I fully appreciate that the

question is rather delicate, but that is an additional reason why the authorities should be more circumspect and careful in devising their schemes.

Sir, take for instance the question of religious feelings, and the refusal of ration for *bhog* or offerings to Hindu deities. Government should know that such *bhog* or offerings to deities form a part of religious injunction to devout Hindus. To refuse these rations is tantamount to an unwarranted interference with the religious rights of the Hindus, and I am afraid that whatever excuse might have been offered by the rationing authorities, there is hardly any justifiable reason for this extraordinary procedure.

There is then the question of ensuring a supply of *atap* rice to Hindu widows. To incorporate this in the scheme of rationing is not at all difficult, and I think that much avoidable hardships would not have occurred had the Government taken these cases into full consideration and framed their plans accordingly.

I hope that in their future schemes of rationing in the urban and rural areas, as also in Calcutta Government will be fairly serious about the matter and ensure that religious susceptibilities are fully respected. There might be abuses here and there and I think there are ample means to check the abuses, if any.

Crowding of lobbies by visitors.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Before you proceed, Sir, may I draw your attention to one fact that the lobbies and the approaches to this Chamber have been converted into a veritable share market where the outsiders are occupying the seats in such large number that the members can neither take their seats there nor can they use the telephones meant for them. I appeal to you to see, Sir, that lobbies are not crowded in this fashion unnecessarily by outsiders.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will see that the lobbies are properly looked after and I will consult the leaders and pass necessary orders later on.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

63—Extraordinary charges in India.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about (*i*) the serious defects in the working of the rationing scheme, (*ii*) the failure of the Civil Supplies Department in maintaining supplies, and (*iii*) the wasteful expenditure involved in the expansion and working of the department.

It is very difficult, Sir, in this short space of time to deal adequately and properly with such a large and important demand; a demand with which the question of life and death of the people of this province is intimately connected.

In the short time at my disposal I can barely touch the various points raised by my motion. As regards the serious defects in the working of the rationing scheme, I think that question was discussed at length some

time ago in this House during this session. In connection with that discussion the distinguished leader of the European group took an opportunity to say that the European group withdrew their support from the previous Ministry because the previous Ministry was not applying their mind to the question of civil supply. He clean forgot that the previous Ministry had no Minister entirely in charge of Civil Supplies at all. The Civil Supplies Department was only tagged on to the Department of Commerce and Industries. There was not one single Minister, Sir, to apply his whole mind to the question. But what do we see after the institution of the present Ministry? There is a Civil Supplies Minister: he devotes his whole time and attention to the subject and yet how much improvement has been effected in spite of the fact that there has been a bumper crop this year and in spite of the further facts that large subsidies are coming from the Central Government and the fact the Miltary has taken over the question of movement? In spite of all these advantages we see that the situation has not been relieved sufficiently; rather, it is as menacing today as it was in March, 1943——(Mr. AHMAD HOSSAIN: Question!)——Yes, wait a bit, I will come to that question. As regards the rationing scheme it was the idea of the Foodgrains Policy Committee that rationing should be introduced because this is the only method of killing the queues. Have the queues been killed in Calcutta? Are not quite a multitude of people found standing before every Government Store in Calcutta? Therefore the first object of rationing has failed so far as Calcutta is concerned. The second object was anti-hoarding as rationing was deemed to be the only way to deal effectively with hoarding. Has this Government been able to deal effectively with hoarding? The Director-General of Food has observed and he has been quoted by Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the cultivators in Bengal are not bringing their produce to the market: not even 50 per cent. of what they were used to bring they are bringing this time to the market. That shows that so far as the actvities of the present Ministry are concerned they have inspired no confidence in the cultivators. And what is the supply position now, Sir? If you look to the latest report in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 16th March, you will find that the four subdivisions of the Dacca district have been marked "(a)" which means that rice can scarcely be had there in the open market at the controlled price. In Dacca there is not a single subdivision where rice can be had at the controlled price. Coming to Chittagong, Sir, we see there are two subdivisions and both the subdivisions have been marked "(a)" which means that there also rice can scarcely be had in the open market at the controlled price. Sir, there are three subdivisions, again, in Tippera and in not one of them rice can be had at the controlled price. Not only this is the position in the East Bengal and rural Bengal but look at Greater Calcutta—just at the north suburbs of Calcutta. The northern municipalities in Greater Calcutta, nay, the whole of Barrackpore subdivision of 24-Parganas, have been marked "(a)", that is, rice can scarcely be had there also in the open market at the controlled price. That is the position even in the neighbourhood of Calcutta, Sir.

Now, let me conclude the second question that is raised in my motion, namely, the failure of the Civil Supplies Department in maintaining

supplies. Sir, what I have just stated amply shows that the Civil Supplies Department even after indulging in procurement schemes for months have not been able to ensure supplies to various districts in Bengal.

Now I shall touch upon the very last point of my motion, namely, the wasteful expenditure involved in the expansion and working of the department. If you refer to the Red Book, page 79, you will see, Sir, that in explaining the budget the following observation has been made at the bottom of the page:—"Allows increased provision of 46 lakhs on account of a full year's requirement in respect of items (2) and (3) which came into operation in the latter part of the current year", that is, items relating to establishment charges on account of the scheme of rationing and to the expansion and reorganisation of the Department of Civil Supplies. Under the revised estimate, the increase is due mainly to larger loss on sale of subsidised food than was anticipated in the budget and the rest of the budget demand which means 33 lakhs of extra expenditure has been proposed to meet the loss on subsidised food to public. Is it assumed that in this year also the famine will be repeated? If this Government has had that apprehension it ought to clear out because it had a full one year to deal with the problem and has not been able to solve the problem. On the contrary the situation, as I said before, is as menacing now as it was in March, 1943.

I have one word more to add and I will finish. The European group has been well advised not to allow the motion of Mr. Skipwith to be moved to raise a discussion about the high prices prevailing for meat, fish, poultry, eggs, milk, vegetable and other foodstuffs essential in his opinion. Sir, to the people of Bengal these articles of food are rather luxuries and not one of them is essential foodstuff. In their report the Foodgrains Policy Committee, on page 68, observed: "We cited in paragraph 21 below Dr. Akroyd's view that there is at present no available substitute for cereals in the Indian diet. Under the circumstances for a large part of the population of the country the quantity to be given under the rationing scheme represents the sole effective intake of food and in our opinion that quantity should not be allowed except in the case of temporary breakdowns to fall below the amount of one pound of cereal per adult per day." There has been a bumper rice crop in Bengal this year. Why, may I ask, in spite of that——

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Rai Chaudhuri, your time is up.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: I shall finish in a minute. ——should a large and compulsory provision for *atta* and flour and wheat be made in our rations and why not point-rationing giving choice to the people be adopted? Those people who cannot take kindly to *atta*, who are not accustomed to take flour, should be permitted to take rice and rice only. I, therefore, suggest that the Government ought to adopt what is called "point rationing".

Maulvi MAQBUL HOSAIN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the corruption prevailing in rationing department.

I also move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about running of the rationing department by supporters of the present Government with a view to keep them in power.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rationing Departmentএর অসাধুতা এবং বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিসভা তাঁদের অযোগ্য, অকর্ম্মণ্য ও অসৎ সমর্থকদিগকে মোটা বেতনে চাকুরী দিয়া তাঁদের মন্ত্রিত্ব কায়েম রাখার যে ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন, তজ্জন্য আমি এই পরিষদে আমার ১৩।১৪ নং প্রস্তাব move করিতেছি।

আমি পরিষদের মেম্বর মহোদয়গণকে জানাইতেছি যে এদেশের শাসনকার্য্য সুষ্ঠুরূপে পরিচালন সম্পর্কে বাংলার মন্ত্রিসভা কোন সুনির্দ্দিষ্ট ও ব্যাপক পরিকল্পনা কিম্বা কর্ম্মপন্থা প্রণয়ন-করেন নাই। তাঁহাদের শাসনকার্য্য পরিচালিত হচ্ছে নিছক ধাপ্পাবাজীর উপর। তাঁরা পরিষদের মেম্বরগণের আত্মীয়স্বজনকে চাকরী দিয়া, কাহাকেও রেশনিংএর দোকান permit দিয়া কাহাকেও বা নজর নেযাজ দ্বারা বাধ্য করত: নিজের গদি কায়েম রাখিতেছেন। দেশের জনসাধারণ তাঁহাদের এই অপকৌশল আজ বুঝতে পেরেছে। তারা জানতে পেরেছে মন্ত্রিসভার জালিয়াতি, জুয়াচুরি ও ভণ্ডামী। তাদের সাহস নাই দেশে যেয়ে কোন public meeting face করার (A voice from the Goverment benches. সাহস আপনারা ধার দিন না।) তাই তাঁরা যখনই tourএ যান, তখন জনসাধারণকে না জানিয়ে মফঃস্বলে যেয়ে হাজির হন। কিছু দিন পূর্ব্বে, প্রধান মন্ত্রী খাজা নাজিমুদ্দীন যখন ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া গিয়াছিলেন, তখন তাঁহার আগমন বার্ত্তা ব্রাহ্মণবাড়ীয়াবাসিগণকে জানানো হয় নাই, তিনি নিজের মান রক্ষার্থে সেখানে গিয়েছিলেন হাওয়াই জাহাজে। (Protests from the Government side) কি জরুরী অবস্থার সৃষ্টি হইয়াছিল যে সেখানে হাওয়াই জাহাজে না গেলে হতো না? আসল কথাটা এই যে জন-সাধারণ যাতে তাঁর বিরুদ্ধে কোন demonstration করার সুযোগ না পায় তজ্জন্যই তিনি ইহা করিয়াছিলেন।

আজকাল বাংলা দেশে শিক্ষিত মুসলমানের অভাব নাই। শত শত শিক্ষিত মুসলমান যুবককে বেকার অবস্থায় চাকুরীর জন্য হাহুতাশ করিতে দেখা যায়। তা সত্ত্বেও মন্ত্রিসভা তাদের কোন সুযোগ না দিয়ে class VI বা class VII পর্য্যন্ত পড়া লোক দ্বারা Rationing Department চালাচ্ছেন। টাউন হল ও অন্যান্য Rationing officeএ এই সমস্ত লোক নিয়োগের ফলে প্রায় সমস্ত Rationing Departmentএ অচল অবস্থার সৃষ্টি হয়েছে। তা ছাড়া বাংলার পল্লী অঞ্চলে চিনি, কেরোসিন, সরিষার তৈল, আটা, ময়দা প্রভৃতি বিতরণে যে ঘুষের অবাধ প্রচলন হয়েছে এবং এই সমস্ত নিত্য-ব্যবহার্য্য দ্রব্যাদি চোরা-বাজারে যে অতিরিক্ত মূল্যে বিক্রীত হচ্ছে তা দমন করার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট কোন পন্থাই অবলম্বন করেন নাই। ব্রাহ্মণবাড়ীয়া সাবডিভিশনাল মুসলীম লীগের যিনি সেক্রেটারী তিনি হচ্ছেন এই সমস্ত জিনিষের একজন প্রধান Permit-holder. তিনি চোরাই বাজারে এই সমস্ত জিনিষ অতিরিক্ত মূল্যে বিক্রয় করে স্থানীয় দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের হাজার হাজার টাকা আত্মসাৎ করিতেছেন। তাঁর এই প্রকার শোষণ ও অত্যাচার হইতে নিষ্কৃতি পাওয়ার জন্য তথাকার হিন্দু-মুসলমান জনগণ ও নেতৃস্থানীয় ব্যক্তিবর্গ গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিকট অনেক আবেদন-নিবেদন জানাইয়াও কোন প্রতিকার পান নাই। আমি মাননীয় খাজা স্যার নজিমুদ্দিনের নিকট জানতে চাই—তিনি কি এইভাবে লীগকর্ম্মীদিগকে সেখানে corruption চালাইতে উৎসাহিত

কোরবেন, না corruption দমন করতে সচেষ্ট হবেন? তাঁর নিকট হইতে এই প্রশ্নটার পরিষ্কার জওয়াব পাওয়ার জন্য আমি দাবী করিতেছি।

পরিশেষে আমার বক্তব্য এই যে মন্ত্রিসভা যদি জনপ্রিয় ও সর্ব্বসাধারণের বিশ্বাসভাজন হইতে ইচ্ছা করেন তাহলে অনতিবিলম্বে Rationing Departmentএর অসদাচরণ প্রথার উচ্ছেদ সাধন করুন, এবং উক্ত department হইতে অযোগ্য কর্ম্মচারীদের তাড়িয়ে দিয়ে যোগ্য লোক সকল দ্বারা উক্ত departmentটার পুনর্গঠন করুন।

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government in voluntarily undertaking a portion of the financial responsibility relating to defence and connected with the war, at a considerable sacrifice of the normal requirements of the people of the province which directly fall within the scope of the provincial authority and jurisdiction.

I also move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the utter failure of the Government in giving adequate protection to the civilian population with respect to Civil Defence and other connected matters.

I also move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government in the matter of awarding compensation to the evacuees, corruption prevailing amongst the rank and file of the staff dealing with such matters, the utter disregard of the provisions of Defence of India Rules and the principles of land acquisition.

Sir, section 49 of the Government of India Act lays down that the executive authority of a province extends to the matters with respect to which the Provincial Legislature has power to make laws.

Defence is therefore a matter outside the scope of Provincial Authority and as a matter of fact no burden has been imposed on the revenues of a province for the purpose of defence under the constitution.

Section 33 of the Government of India Act lays down that the expenditure for the purpose of the discharge by the Governor-General of his functions with respect to defence shall be expenditure charged on the revenues of the Federation.

Section 67A of the Government of India Act still continued in force with amendments as set out in the ninth schedule further provides that the proposals of the Governor-General in Council for the appropriation of revenues or moneys relating to expenditure under the head classified by the order of the Governor-General in Council as Defence or any other expenditure declared by the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, for the time being in force to be charged on the revenues of the Federation shall not be submitted to the vote of the Legislative Assembly nor shall they be open to discussion by either Chamber at the time when the annual statement is under consideration unless the Governor-General otherwise directs.

It is thus clear that—

(1) the entire burden for the purpose of defence has been thrown on the revenues of the Governor-General in Council,

(2) the responsibility for discharging the functions with respect to defence has been imposed on the Governor-General and he is not responsible to the Indian Legislatures.

Under section 123 the Governor-General may direct the Governor of a Province to discharge *as his agent* such functions in relation to defence as may be specified in the direction.

Here also the Governor in the discharge of any such function shall have to act in his discretion. Now, Sir, the Bengal Ministries are quite conversant with the conditions of finances of the province. They could realise the impact of the war on the finances of the province. They are certainly aware of the fact that the Government of Bengal have got no financial responsibility with respect to expenditure for the purpose of defence. In spite of all these, it is really a mystery why the Bengal Ministries readily accepted a position which seeks to impose a burden on the provincial exchequer, vitally affecting the finances of the province. Weak and imbecile as they are they cannot hold their own. As a result of this thoughtless and irresponsible commitment the much-talked-of Provincial Autonomy has in fact ceased to function and the administration has been kept going on anyhow. All nation-building activities have been suspended and they have devoted their time and energy and rescources as well to meet the situation that has arisen in this province as a result of the policy of the Government of India pursued for the prosecution of the war. They have given a decent burial to the so-called Provincial Autonomy and converted the Government of Bengal into an agency of the British bureaucracy. The Governor-General in Council is the supreme authority, the Provincial Governors are his agents and the Ministry is holding office during the pleasure of the Governor.

Under section 150 no burden shall be imposed on the revenues of the Federation or the Indian Provinces except for the purpose of India or some part of India.

Is it merely out of sympathy for the Indian people that the military operations have been undertaken by the United Nations near our frontier?

Burma has long been cut off from India and made a unit by itself against the wishes of the people of India and of Burma. Burma and some territories belonging to His Majesty's Government as well as some other territories belonging to some foreign powers including the United States of America have fallen into the hands of Japan. The importance of India as a strategic base, because of its geographical position, cannot be denied and as a matter of fact India has been converted into a major supply centre and has become a vast military base for war against Japan. Whatever military operations have been undertaken by the United Nations in the Far East are for reconquering the territories they have lost and and not for the purpose of India. If the United Nations could not utilise this country as the base of their military operations the chances of victory would have been far remote. But there is no denying the fact that the

Province of Bengal has become the worst victim of the military operations undertaken by the United Nations and their activities are responsible for creating the present situation in Bengal which has become almost unbearable. Untold miseries and incalculable sufferings have been inflicted on the people of this unfortunate province. Over and above these, if financial burden is also to be borne by the province to combat the situation arising out of war condition it is adding insult to injury.

The most important factors responsible for the present crisis in Bengal may be summed up as follows:—A drastic curtailment of transport facilities available for civil requirements to meet the demands necessitated by the war has been effected to such an extent that it would be no exaggeration to state that for all practical purposes transport facilities have been denied to the civil population to meet their requirements. The one-sided policy of the Government of India is responsible for this state of things. To use the words of the Hon'ble Finance Minister "the presence of a large military personnel, the construction of aerodromes, roads and bridges and the almost unlimited purchases of commodities have inevitably upset the balance of the economic life of the province and intensified the evil of Inflation".

The Government of India had to create abnormal purchasing power for the Government to meet the demands on the revenues necessitated by the war.

Thirdly, this province is already a deficit province in the matter of her food requirements and other essentials of life. We have been deprived of supplies of rice from Burma, Singapore and Indo-China as a result of the war. Vast areas of cultivated land have been acquired for military purposes and the production has diminished to that extent. Then there is an influx of several lakhs of military people and of evacuees from Burma in the province.

These factors have led to abnormal rise in prices of foodstuffs and other essentials of life varying from 300 to 800 per cent. Famine is the inevitable consequence and epidemics must follow in its train. The food crisis is a creation of the policy of the Government of India pursued for prosecution of the war. The Government of India is responsible for the situation arising out of the war and must finance the measures adopted to combat the situation.

Then, Sir, the impact of the war on the finances of the province is writ large in the figures given in the Red Book with respect to expenditure under the different heads.

The total figures with respect to expenditure on account of dearness allowance for 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45 to Government servants stand out at 1¾ crores of rupees. As compared with the expenditure in 1941-42, the increase of expenditure under the head "Jails" in the current year and the coming year is Rs. 1,55,17,000; and the increase in expenditure on the head "Agriculture" in 1943-44 and the coming year is Rs. 1,85,75,000; as also the increase in expenditure on the head "Public Health" for the current year and the coming year is Rs. 64,24,000. The expenditure on Famine for the years 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45 stands at Rs. 8,78,09,792.

The expenditure on "Extraordinary Charges" from 1940-41 to 1944-45 stands at Rs. 18,79,25,740. The expenditure on account of interest borrowed for the purpose of financing schemes connected with the war is about Rs. 58 lakhs in 1943-44 and 1944-45. The increase in our Revenue receipts is expected to vary from 7 to 8 crores in 1943-44 and 1944-45 as compared with the receipts in 1941-42. At the close of the coming year our indebtedness will be Rs. 19,70,75,000 According to the estimates the coming year's working will close with a negative balance of 10 crores 65 lakhs.

Up to the close of the coming year not less than 33 crores of rupees would get out of the Provincial Exchequer to lighten the burden on the revenues of the Government of India. But, Sir, this is a legitimate burden on the Centre.

As to the matters falling within the scope of the Provincial Authority there are as many as 13 Ministers placed in charge of the different departments. The secondary schools particularly those situated in rural areas are on the verge of total extinction. The existing free primary schools have kept their existence only in name. The introduction of free primary schools in districts where there are none has been kept in abeyance till after the war. As to the Departments of Agriculture and of Public Health, the whole attention has been given to meet the situation arising out of the war by adopting temporary measures. No planned programme to bring about all-round agricultural improvement or to improve public health on a permanent basis has been undertaken. Public health has been completely shattered Law and Order has been vindicated in gagging the press and the platform, in putting under detention thousands of patriots without trial for an indefinite period but cannot give protection to the law-abiding citizen against police and military oppression.

As to the Department of Industries the All-India Spinners' Association has been suppressed; thousands of spinners and weavers have been thrown out of employment. No jail reforms are possible till after the war.

As to Civil Defence thousands of families have been rendered homeless and landless by evacuation. Thousands of civilians have been killed as a result of air raid by enemy planes and properties worth several lakhs have been destroyed or damaged. May I enquire of the Minister in charge whether any compensation has been paid to the dependants of those who have been killed as a result of bombing or shot dead by the military people? If so, what is the maximum amount assessed as being the value of a human life in this country and whether any compensation has been allowed to those whose properties have been destroyed or damaged? In rural areas where aerodromes have been constructed, the lives and properties of the villagers are always exposed to dangers of bombing. No air raid precautions have been taken. Military oppression on a mass scale has been committed, our women have been molested, innocent villagers have been shot dead and injured but on the plea for want of identification the culprits could not be brought to book and this is how the custodians of law and order have discharged their responsibility.

To crown all our Ministers in the name of Provincial Autonomy have made us a present of the unprecedented famine which visited this unfortunate land in the past few months. Hundreds of thousands of people had to die for want of food and as a result of starvation from day to day followed by epidemics, unheard of in the history of any other country in the world within living memory. Sir, it is regrettable that the Ministers did not think it worthwhile to see that deaths due to starvation were recorded then and there at least to get themselves acquainted with the real state of affairs in the country. On the contrary, the Executive did take all possible care for suppression of this terrible state of things happening in the country. Sir, if one thousandth part of what happened in this country during the past few months would have occurred in Great Britain——

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Sur, your time is up.

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: Very well, Sir. With these words, I commend my motions to the acceptance of the House.

Alhadj GYASUDDIN AHMED CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about bribery and corruption in the Civil Supply Department.

Sir, I do not want to take any more time of the House as other members our party will speak on the subject.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH SEN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the general policy and extraordinary expenses.

Sir, this new account of Extraordinary Charges has been opened in 1943-44, and the detailed statement of the items of expenditure clubbed under this head shows that most of the expenses are connected with the war and have to be incurred because of the geographical coincidence that Bengal happens to be on the war front and is the main base for offensive action of the south-East Asia Command. The circumstances are extraordinary and expenses have to be incurred. But what I would like to emphasise is whether the money provided was utilised in the current year or would be utilised in the next year in the best manner possible. The financial "Niagra" is flowing in its full fury. But what check and guarantee is there that money is spent well, when we hear so much about corruption and inefficiency of the Government departments. The sum provided for the expansion of the Directorate of Civil Supplies forms a major item of expenditure under this head, but the efficiency of the department has not increased in the least.

A sum of about Rs. 2 lakhs has been provided for the administration of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order and Rs. 3 lakhs for the administration of the Drugs Control Order. As regards cloth, there prevails an acute famine of the article in Bengal. In spite of the fact that price control is being rigorously enforced, the benefits thereof are not being reaped by the consumers on account of an absolute shortage of cotton

piece-goods in the market. I understand that the Government have set up a Provincial Advisory Committee to advise them on matters connected with the administration of the Order, but it is my information that the members of the committee are seldom consulted by the Provincial Textile Controller before any important decision is taken. There is no justification for this scant courtesy shown by the Government to the members of the Advisory Coommittee which has been constituted in order to associate non-official commercial opinion with the Government in the matter of administering a complicated measure like the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order. This is also in direct contrast with the status of the Textile Control Board whose decisions have often to be accepted by the Textile Commissioner even though the latter may disagree with the same. I cannot understand the reason as to why a different procedure should be followed in respect of the Provincial Advisory Committee particularly in matter relating to administrative details. Similar is the case with the administration of the Drugs Control Order. Government control has not improved the situation in the least.

In the next place, the loss on sale on subsidised foodstuffs which accounts for a sum of more than Rs. 5 crores should have been dealt in more details by the Government, so that there may be no ground for suspicion and misunderstanding.

The Government should be above board. They have not told us the rates at which they propose to sell the foodgrains purchased by them. A mere statement of the total amount of the loss is not very helpful. It is because of this reason that I emphasise the necessity for maintaining an effective check and supervision on spending by the Government Departments of the sums provided under different items in this head. I would now like to refer to another matter of extreme public importance, particularly to the citizens in the Calcutta area, viz., the requisitioning of residential houses as well as factory premises on an extensive scale, sometimes on a very short notice. The Government of India have also admitted, in reply to a question in the Central Assembly, that hardship had been caused in some cases to the civil population in Calcutta and outside by the requisitioning of houses by the Government under the Defence of India Rules. I admit the necessity of the Army in its war effort to receive priority treatment. Nevertheless the inconvenience caused to the civil population should be reduced to the minimum. I am aware that the General Officer Commanding, Eastern Command, has set up a Town Planning Committee and that this committee has got down to work through a small Quartering Committee. But with the progress of operations under the South-East Asia Command increasing demands will be made with which the building potential would hardly be able to cope. It is, therefore, necessary that steps should be taken to relieve the pressure on the housing accommodation in Calcutta. With that end in view military personnel should as far as practicable be located outside Calcutta in temporary structures. Besides, every facility should be given to the building materials, particularly iron and steel materials as also of bricks, cement and wood and shortage of various fittings. The building programme has been at a stand still in Calcutta for the last four years. Even houses under construction have

been left incomplete. It is therefore highly desirable that facilities should be given for erection of new houses in Calcutta, which by providing greater amount of accommodation may ease the situation. Again, business firms have also been placed to considerable difficulty and even loss of business as a result of the requisitioning of their office or factory premises. It is to be hoped that Government will give their due consideration to this aspect of the problem and provide necessary relief to the commercial community. Lastly, in this connection, I would like to say a few words on the billetting of military personnel. As a matter of fact a number of house-holders have been served with notice for the purpose. I realise the anxiety of the Government to find out accommodation for military personnel, but in view of social conditions obtaining in India, such an action would cause hardship to the people. Even in England where conditions are favourable for the introduction of such a system, billeting has given rise to certain complaints from the public. It is therefore highly desirable that billeting should not be enforced without the consent of house-holders.

With these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Maulvi WALIUR RAHMAN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to make proper distribution of paddy purchase.

I further beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100.

My object in moving this motion is to raise a discussion about the procedure adopted to purchase *aus* paddy and its reaction.

Sir, it is an admitted and established fact that the *aus* paddy was purchased in Jessore and that it was allowed to rot in many a railway station and in several other places. When these purchases were made, many people in that area were actually suffering from want of supplies because at that time rice and paddy suddenly mysteriously disappeared from the local market and shops. The authorities did not care to release the paddy and thus relieve the distress then prevailing. At that time, I know there were some thanas—5 thanas in the same district—which felt the pinch of scarcity but yet the supply was not made available. It is also an admitted fact that though paddy was procured in that district, many people there died of starvation and many relief centres and gruel kitchens had to be opened. The people of Dacca, Faridpur and those of eastern part of Jessore used to get their *aus* paddy and rice from Jessore by boat but this year they were not allowed to do so. Under the circumstances the people of those areas suffered from scarcity of foodcrop and had to starve and die of starvation. I had occasion to see in many places how purchases were made. I wrote a letter to the District Magistrate requesting him to take immediate steps to stop the procedure which had been adopted to purchase paddy. No schedule of surplus paddy was prepared. Sub-agents, home guards and some other people were set up to procure paddy. On payment of some commission they were engaged to purchase paddy. They did not care whether anybody had any surplus paddy or not.

They went into the interior and procured paddy from persons even though they had no surplus at all. I brought to the notice of the District Magistrate some specific cases where paddy was snatched away from persons who had to purchase paddy on the very day from the black market at Rs. 18 per maund. The District Magistrate afterwards went to that locality and returned the paddy to some of them. Most of the people could not get back their paddy because their paddy had already been taken to the godown. In this way paddy was purchased and many people who had no surplus at all were deprived of their paddy and no requisition was given. The agents declared themselves as third class magistrates and seized the paddy. That was the procedure adopted—a most undesirable procedure it was. If there be any surplus we have no objection to Government taking the paddy away. Paddy must be purchased only from people who have got surplus and who can afford to part with it. But it was not so done. Rich people were immune from this sort of requisition. No paddy was taken away from them. They were appointed as sub-agents or agents and they wrested paddy from people who had not much even for their own consumption.

(At this stage, the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the maladministration in the A.R.P. services and the inadequacy of the arrangements.

Sir, for the time being I propose to switch back to the important services for A.R.P. from the subject of food supply. This is necessary because of the increased threat to this city of Calcutta and some parts of Bengal. I submit, Sir, this matter at the present moment is of greater importance than the question relating to food supply.

Sir, I have on enquiry found that the A.R.P. services in Calcutta have today been reduced to a very helpless state of affairs and practically there is a threat of complete collapse in the entire A.R.P. organisation. Sir, may I hope that the Hon'ble Chief Minister will take note of this debate?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy is there.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The A.R.P. organisation in this city was modelled on the approved A.R.P. basis in cities like London and elsewhere, but the number of persons that were allotted for the A.R.P. organisation has never been reached. The total number, I am told on the basis of some estimated expert opinion, was about 4,000 men in the sanctioned scale, but only about 3,000 men were at any time recruited, while the original scheme was for 16,000 men. Out of this 3,000 there has been nearly 60 per cent. of resignations and desertions. There are areas in Calcutta where out of the total sanctioned cadre only about 30 per cent. of the wardens are now available. I will give a few examples: in the Burra Bazar sub-area, the total sanctioned cadre was 1,300—1,209 volunteers and 91 paid; out of these there are only 10 volunteers and 82

paid, that is, total 92 only are available out of the total sanctioned strength of 1,300. In Hare Street Wardens' Post, which is a small post No. 2, the total sanctioned cadre was 19, out of which only 10 are available. In Ballygunge sub-area, S. Warden Post No. 4, the sanctioned number was 14 and only 4 are available. In Jorasanko sub-area, Warden Post No. 5, out of the sanctioned strength of 14, only 5 are available; and I am taking one of the depots—I take the Beadon Street Depot where only 5 car-drivers are available out of the sanctioned strength of 24. Sir, the number of desertions and vacancies have been so alarming that of late the Government had to issue an order that one month's notice would be required to leave an A.R.P. Warden Post or Depot.

On enquiry I found that the main reasons for this sort of affairs were the poor pay and the increased work that has been allotted to the A.R.P. wardens. The pay allotted to the warden is Rs. 30 *plus* a dearness allowance of Rs. 8 only per month. They also get only one man's cheap ration at the rate of Rs. 10 per maund of rice. The work that they were originally required to do has been multiplied in various ways and additional duties have been imposed on them on account of enumeration, issue of ration cards, revision thereof, removal of destitutes, anti-hoarding drive, etc., but no additional emoluments were ever provided for these additional duties. Some of the A.R.P. wardens had entered the service with the idea that they would have to do a particular kind of job for certain hours of the day and they could seek to supplement their income by other methods. But that is now absolutely impossible on account of additional duties that have been imposed on them. Government had recently increased the pay and emoluments of lady wardens and they have been allowed Rs. 50 as remuneration, Rs. 14 as dearness allowance, and Rs. 5 as fixed travelling allowance. It is now claimed that unless the basic salary of all the A.R.P. wardens in Calcutta is raised to the figure of Rs. 50 with a dearness allowance of Rs. 14 it would be impossible for the Government to maintain a sufficient number of A.R.P. wardens for the safety and service of the people of Calcutta during emergency. It is also noticed that there have been large number of resignations because of bad treatment of superior officers. There is no machinery, Sir, for giving them a hearing; the hearing that is provided for from the Staff Officer to the Deputy Controller and from the Deputy Controller to the Controller is illusory. They never give them any hearing at the proper time.

There is also a danger of most of them getting replaced by untrained workers. Untrained men now number nearly 60 per cent. of the total strength. That has been due to the fact that many of them are treated so badly and roughly by superior officers that they do not feel like working for the A.R.P. organisation at all. Recently a post warden was discharged peremptorily on a frivolous ground, that is, he refused to allow Mr. K. Ram, I.C.S., to enter the post and through the post to the ration office. It is enjoined upon him not to allow anybody to go through the post. But unfortunately for him he did not know that it was an I.C.S. officer who wanted to go through his office and he protested, and as a result he lost his job. Subsequently the whole A.R.P. organisation created a furore on this issue, and these officers found that they were in the wrong, and they

have since reinstated that person. There have been similar difficulties due to conflict of interest between the A.R.P. and the Civic Guards who are a pampered lot, and the A.R.P. workers are always hounded up by the Special Branch Police. And if any complaint is made against anybody to the officer, he is threatened and ordered to go home, and the next day the Special Branch Police would go to his house.

This is how, Sir, the administration of the A.R.P. organisation is being carried on, and therefore it requires a thorough overhauling immediately.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, I rise to move the motion standing in my name, namely, the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100. This is to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to deal effectively with offences relating to civil supplies.

Sir, we are dealing today with Extraordinary Charges in India—the charges are extraordinary indeed. What can be more extraordinary than that a people should have to fight another people's war and should have to undergo sufferings, hardships and privation arising out of the war conditions—as is happening today in Bengal. Next to the imperialist war lords of the East and the West who are primarily responsible for Bengal's sufferings today the other parties who have contributed mainly to the same come from Clive Street and Ezra Street, both of Calcutta (Interruptions). I repeat that other parties besides the imperialist war lords of the East and the West, who are responsible for Bengal's sufferings, come from Clive Street and Ezra Street. I will try to illustrate the truth of my statement by reference to the most anti-social phenomenon, namely, hoarding and profiteering. About hoarding by the military and for military purposes—the hoarding which allowed rice and other foodgrains to accumulate and rot in godowns while people outside were dying like fleas, I shall not say more than pointing out that Government did not take proper steps to prevent it. Sir, this is an act of omission. And besides this act of omission, the Gvernment have also been guilty of acts of commission too. The Government in their solicitude for the benefit of Clive Street and Ezra Street, which ultimately is for their own benefit because Clive Street gives them votes and Ezra Street contributes to party fund that helps in getting votes—the Government have allowed them to exploit the people's sufferings for their own selfish ends.

Sir, I have said that Clive Street and Ezra Street have been responsible for Bengal's sufferings. Let me first take Ezra Street. It is quite well-known in this House and outside and in the press and on platforms it has been made abundantly clear that the dealings of Ezra Street in procuring rice have not been quite straight—sufficient materials have been made available to Government, materials on the strength of which Government might haul up Messrs. Ispahani & Co. Even to dispel the mistrust and suspicion that has been created by that firm Government should have taken that step. The nonchalant attitude shown by the Government has caused great demoralisation in the administrative machinery. I have heard very responsible police officials say "what is the use of running after small fries

when big people go scot-free with huge bank balances without even any scratch or bruise upon their persons".

Sir, as far as Clive Street is concerned, the industrial magnates of Clive Street have been allowed to hoard much beyond their immediate needs when people were dying like fleas outside. (Mr. M. A. F. HIRTZEL: No.) They say "No", but there is proof enough, there is material enough to substantiate the allegation that I make with the full sense of responsibility on the floor of the House that Clive Street has been allowed to hoard beyond their immediate needs. The result has been that the whole administration has been demoralised and people have suffered and died like fleas.

Sir, in the interest of administration and in the interest of the people, proper steps ought to have been taken against these two bodies—Clive Street and Ezra Street, the arch offenders of the game.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to tackle food problem and rationing and tackle salt shortage question.

Sir, the Hon'ble Civil Supplies Minister and the Government cried hoarse in trying to fasten the guilt on the private hoarders. There is some truth in it, but during the anti-hoarding drive my experience in my district is this. The frozen stock and the stock which was requisitioned in respect of paddy and rice were lying in the granaries of private owners under requisition orders and were not available to anyone and not utilised for the benefit of anyone. These were rotting in the granaries of private persons. They were not allowed to take them to the market nor did Government utilise them in any manner. Even one month back my information was that in Dinajpur town alone there were 2 lakhs of maunds of rice rotting in the Government stores. We heard that telegrams were sent from time to time for despatching those rice or paddy stored in Government stores to the affected areas but as soon as one telegram reached there, another telegram followed asking to stop the despatch. If a telegram was to the effect "despatch it to Khulna", but when the arrangements were almost complete, another telegram followed saying "Don't despatch it to Khulna but despatch it to Dacca". In this way Government bungled and the people suffered. My friend Mr. Atul Chandra Sen was saying quite properly that we were suffering without any prospect in future for us, but it is regrettable that our Ministers are also responsible for these bunglings.

Sir, about the salt supply in my district I may state that for about 20 lakhs of people in the district only 10,000 maunds per month have been allotted. There are also requirements for the cattle. This is quite inadequate—there is no doubt about it. Now, what is the arrangement made? Messrs. Kassem and Ismail were appointed the sole agents for the supply of salt to that district. After they had been appointed the sole agents, the District Magistrate wrote to them to give him supply. They demanded Rs. 15 for each bag of salt containing two maunds. The controlled rate fixed by Government was Rs. 13. The Magistrate with a detailed account tried to convince them that even if they sold salt at Rs. 13 per

bag, they would get 6 annas and their sub-agents 5 annas as profit. They did not care. They threatened the District Magistrate by saying that if he would not accept their terms, Dinajpur district would face salt famine. In this way for one month and 23 days the negotiations were going on between the District Magistrate and the agents.

Sir, I do not find any necessity for appointing an agent which only disturbs the normal arrangements that were prevailing previous to this arrangement. I draw the pointed attention of the Hon'ble Minister to see that salt which is the only thing which the poor people of our country take with their rice is available in adequate quantities and at reasonable price.

Sir, about the rationing in Calcutta and other places I have only a few suggestions to make. The quantity allotted is quite inadequate for persons who have to work hard. It may be raised.

Sir, with these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about Government's failure to secure stabilisation of price in the matter of essential commodities consistently with the purchasing capacity of the average man.

Sir, I do not propose to raise any controversial or intellectual issues, but I invite the attention of the Minister and of the members supporting the Treasury benches to the realities of the province. As lawyers we have several times heard that one ton of tales do not alter an ounce of fact and the numerous professions and pleadings of the Government notwithstanding, the stark and undeniable reality that stands out above everything else in this province is that essential commodities including the bare foodgrains are beyond even the jumping range of the ordinary consumer who constitutes the bulk of the population.

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister on a previous occasion had observed that in the present context of things the rich were becoming richer and the poor poorer. Now, Sir, the piecemeal, incomprehensive and, I should also add, reckless efforts towards counter-inflationary measures have had the only undesirable effect of further tightening up the grip over poverty.

Sir, Government introduced the policy of helping its own subordinate employees with ration at concession rates. This is presumably on the assumption that the lower rungs of the ladder in the cadre of services are unable to meet their own demands. On the same principle the vast majority whose earning is much less than that of the poorest Government employee should be subsidised from the public pool. Sir, if Government service is essential to the community, lives of millions of the rate-payers are no less so, because if these rate-payers die, who will live? I, therefore, propose that steps should be taken not through party or political perspective but with the help and assistance of experts in the matter and ration of sufficient quantity should be made available at proper and feasible rates. For example, rice at rationed quantities must not go beyond Rs. 10

per maund and Government must start requisitioning the surplus of big producers, dealers and hoarders on that basis. Sir, I would warn the Ministry against taking actions themselves, because after all it is not so easy to control the laws of the demand and supply and I think the Ministers should have no objection to getting the advice and assistance from experts on this line, such as, economists, scholars, and traders. On this basis the minimum requirements of other commodities also, namely, cloth, salt, *gur*, and sugar *per capita* ought to be within the reach of the people. Once this is done, reactionary prices may be counteracted.

I hope this one matter which is above, beyond and below party question, will receive the scientific, earnest and practical consideration that it certainly deserves.

Mr. B. MUKHERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the dismissal from the A.R.P. services in Chittagong, of Malin Ghosh, for having made a speech on the occasion of the last Independence Day on January 26, 1944.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Extraordinary chargeএর demand থেকে, আমি প্রস্তাব করছি একশো টাকা কেটে নেওয়া হোক; এবং সেইটা চাইছি—চট্টগ্রাম A. R. P. serviceএর নলিন ঘোষকে গত ২৬শে জানুয়ারী স্বাধীনতা দিবসে বক্তৃতা দেবার অজুহাতে service থেকে যে তাড়িয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে সেই সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা উত্থাপনের জন্য। নলিন ঘোষ চট্টগ্রাম A. R. P. serviceএ বহুদিন থেকে আছে। চট্টগ্রামে যখন প্রথম bombardment হয় সে সময় যখন A. R., P. serviceএর নীতি অনেকখানি নেমে এসেছিল, সেই সময় এই ভদ্রলোক প্রাণপণ চেষ্টা কোরে A. R. P.র সকলকে একত্রিত রেখে A. R. P.র মধ্যে প্রেরণা জাগাবার জন্যে বিশেষ চেষ্টা করেন ও কৃতকার্য্য হন। গত দুর্ভিক্ষের সময়ও এই নলিন ঘোষ যথেষ্ট relief workএর কার্য্য করতে পেরেছিলেন। ঠিক সেই সময় চট্টগ্রামের আর একজন ভদ্রলোক পূর্ণেন্দু দস্তিদার, তিনি একজন সেখানকার নেতা,—তাঁকেও বাধ্য করা হয়েছে যে A. R. P. থেকে resignation দিতে হবে। এতো গেল চট্টগ্রামের ব্যাপার।

আজ অবস্থাটা এরকম দাঁড়িয়েছে যে সমস্ত বাংলা দেশের বিভিন্ন জেলার যদি সংবাদ নেয়া যায় তাহলে দেখা যাবে যে চট্টগ্রামের ঘটনা একটা কিছু আকস্মিক ঘটনা নয়। বরিশালের নরেন রায়, যুবক সমাজের একজন নেতা, তাঁকেও বাধ্য করা হয়েছে—চাকরী ছেড়ে দিতে। সেখানে শোনা যায় I. B. থেকে নাকি নির্দ্দেশ গিয়েছে, যাদের রাজনীতির সঙ্গে সম্পর্ক আছে, কংগ্রেসী ও কমিউনিষ্টদের তো বটেই, এমন কি মুসলীম লীগ রাজনীতির সঙ্গেও যাদের সম্পর্ক আছে—তাদের A. R. P. এবং অনুরূপ serviceএ স্থান নাই।

ফেণীতে বর্ত্তমান সময়ে A. R. P. লোকদের মাইনে যেখানে ২৩।২৪৲, সেখানে তাদের পক্ষে কাজ করাই শক্ত, সেখানেও এই নীতি চলেছে। বিশেষতঃ কিছুকাল পূর্ব্বে ডাঃ নলিনাক্ষ সান্যাল কলকাতা A. R. P.র সম্বন্ধে কয়েকটি কথা বলেছেন—তিনি বলেছেন, যেখানে ১৬ হাজার wardenএর দরকার সেখানে মাত্র ৪ হাজার আছে, যেখানে একশো জন কোটা সেখানে ৩০ জন, ৪০ জন, ৫০ জন বা ৬০ জনের বেশী নাই। এবং অন্যান্য অকজিলারী প্রতিষ্ঠানও সুনিয়ন্ত্রিত নয়; বিশেষ কোরে first aid সম্বন্ধে এটা বলা চলে। সেবারে হাতিবাগানে যখন প্রথম বোমা পড়ে তখনও আহতদের উপযুক্ত first aid দেওয়া যায় নাই এমন কি গত বারে খিদিরপুরে যখন bombardment হয় তাতেও যতদূর জানি তাতেও

আহতদের first aid সুবিধাজনক হয়নি। একেই যখন A. R. P.তে লোকসংখ্যা অল্প তার উপর যদি রাজনৈতিক কারণে আবার লোকদের ছাড়িয়ে দেওয়া হয় তাহলে সেটা বর্ত্তমান পরিস্থিতিতে অত্যন্ত পরিতাপের বিষয় হবে।

তারপর বিশেষ কোরে আমাদের আর একটা অভিযোগ এই যে A. R. P.র উচ্চ পদে এমন সব লোকদের নিয়োগ করা হয়েছে যাদের মধ্যে 5th columnistদের প্রতি সহানুভূতিসম্পন্ন লোক রয়েছেন। এবং তাঁরা যে সমস্ত লোককে appoint করেন তাঁরা যদি তাঁদের সেই সমস্ত কার্য্যে সহযোগিতা করতে রাজি হয় তাহলেই তারা নিযুক্ত হতে পারবে নৈলে হতে পারে না। এবং একথা তাঁরা পরিষ্কারভাবেই জানাতে চান যদি তাদের কার্য্যকলাপে সহযোগিতা করতে না পারে তাহলে কাউকে নেওয়া হবে না।

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: তাদের নাম দিন না।

Mr. B. MUKHERJEE: একটা নাম আমি আপনাদের এখানে দিচ্ছি—Mr. De, I. C. S., Deputy Controller তাঁর সম্বন্ধে যদি আরো সঠিক সংবাদ জানার প্রয়োজন থাকে তাহলে সে সম্বন্ধে আমি further material দিতে পারি। যদি এ সম্বন্ধে আপনাদের বিশেষ দৃষ্টি দেবার মতন—

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Mukherjee your time is up.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the maladministration of the various sections of the Department of Civil Supply and about the failure to check abuse and corruption.

Sir, with the limited time at my disposal it will hardly be possible for me to do justice to the subject that I propose to discuss tonight and I shall only confine myself to a few observations on matters which have received more or less public recognition. The first case of maladministration that I propose to take up is with regard to the policy that is determined by the Department of Civil Supplies from time to time. The House knows and members here as well as outside know fully well how the Department had signally failed in determining any definite policy or scheme for maintenance of supplies in different parts of Bengal. Today they determine one thing, tomorrow they change it and another order is issued. The third day that order again is changed and a new order is issued. It is extremely difficult, Sir, even for the officials and members of the Government to keep themselves abreast of the many changes that are taking place in the orders of that department. I shall only state one thing, and that will clarify this issue.

In regard to the Government's food plan for 1944 the scheme for the procurement and distribution of *aman* crop was made early in November and this was given publicity in the press during the latter part of November or in the first week of December. In that scheme among many things it was stated that the purchase of rice and paddy would be on behalf of Government through a purchasing board consisting of not more than five firms of very high standing. It was stated that purchases will also be made from the trade and cultivators direct. In reply to questions asked in this House a few days ago in connection with the supplementary budget the Hon'ble Minister categorically stated that it was the Government policy

not merely to purchase through a few big purchasing agents or chief agents appointed by Government but also directly through the various Additional and Deputy Directors of Civil Supplies and through their staff appointed throughout the province. But, Sir, subsequent to that, we have noticed a fresh notification not of the nature of a press communique but an advertisement in the press where cleverly these words have been taken out—the words that purchases will also be made from the trade and cultivators direct. Many enquiries have been made of us and I claim to keep abreast of information so far as the Civil Supplies Department is concerned. I stated most emphatically that this was the Government's policy which was discussed with us and announced in the press. But I was confronted with an advertisement in the press which says that no direct purchase can be made by Government but only every one has to sell through the few selected agents of Government, the protégés whom Government wanted to maintain. I will not cite any more instances on this point because the maladministration of the policy is perfectly clear and where and how this change had been given effect to will be an interesting thing to enquire into.

The second point that I would like to state is with regard to the determination of areas and allotment of zones for particular agents. We find that there were four agents ultimately appointed: Messrs. M. Ispahani & Co., Messrs. Shaw Wallace & Co., Messrs. Daulatram Routmull and Raja Srinath Roy & Jadhunath Roy. The list shows that while Messrs. Ispahani & Co., had been entrusted with the task of collecting rice and paddy from about 10 districts, Messrs. Shaw Wallace & Co., were entrusted only with four or five districts. Messrs. Daulatram jointly with Messrs. Ispahani & Co., in two districts and separately in 6 districts and Raja Srinath Roy & Jadhunath Roy, the only Bengali firm, were allotted only three districts and these three also are scarcely surplus districts—they have been allotted Mymensingh, Dacca and Bakarganj. Dacca is admittedly not a surplus district. Mymensingh from the list that you have shewn is also likely to obtain supplies from elsewhere and Bakarganj is another district that they have got. Anyway, the wonderful policy that is pursued is revealed from the method and manner of allocation of duties to various agents. I would like to know what was the consideration for which these allocations were made in this apparently inequitable manner. I am not merely complaining about the agents; but when we look into the lists of areas allocated to different officers of the Civil Supplies Department as zones under the charge of respective Additional and Deputy Directors, we are confronted with an interesting knowledge of geography of the officers who are in charge of this work. We find that Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Dinajpur and Malda are under one Deputy Director who is posted at Dinajpur. I don't quarrel with this division so much. Then comes the second group. The districts of Rangpur, Rajshahi and Bogra are grouped together. The third is the most interesting allocation, viz., Murshidabad, Nadia and Pabna. These three districts are tacked together and put under the charge of one officer who is stationed at Berhampore.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: And Jessore also.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No, I am coming to that. Probably the energetic Civil Supplies Parliamentary Secretary coming from Pabna

knows more about the secret of Pabna being tacked to Murshidabad. Similarly we find that one officer has been given as many as seven districts, viz., 24-Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly, Birbhum, Burdwan, Bankura and Midnapur. These are the districts wherefrom the largest procurement will have to be made. I fail to understand what was the logic by which such a division was made. I asked the officers concerned: how is it that you are working in this way? The reply is "We do not know". We find that somebody has marked it on the map saying that that is how the work is going to be done. There is another thing. They have divided certain districts as surplus and tacked them to certain alleged deficit districts for maintaining supplies. I have no time to go into details. I shall be glad to show, if an enquiry is made, how all this has been illogical and how it evinces a thorough case of bungling. I would also invite the attention of the Hon'ble Minister——

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I have 5 minutes more?

Mr. SPEAKER: Only 2 minutes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister—and I now put these in the form of questions—on what principle was this cordoning done of certain districts as districts where purchases were made? Why was it that the unfortunate districts of Murshidabad and Jessore were left without cordon thereby enabling anybody and everybody to have free scope of business in that area for months past? I fail to understand, when from the Government's own confidential notes circulated that Murshidabad and Nadia are not considered to be sufficiently surplus and there is a programme of subsequently sending rice to Nadia from other districts, why Nadia is without any cordon.

The second thing that I would like to know is how and why Government have been dealing with the complaints made from time to time from different districts and different parties. Is there any machinery set up for regularly listening or attending to complaints? Is there any machinery for hearing objections and appeals? I submit that so far as our experience goes, the big bosses of the Civil Supplies Department think too high of themselves and they never allow anybody to come near them to put in complaints about anybody who is under them. If superior officers have got that mentality that everything that is going on below them is O. K. and that no complaints must be heard, then woe to the department and woe to the Hon'ble Minister in charge who is in charge of such a set of officers!

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Sir, as I was slowly streaming into the Chamber, I thanked my stars that I got an opportunity of speaking for five minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: You will have seven minutes.

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Thank you, Sir.

I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion to raise a discussion about (1) the failure of the Government's scheme for rationing in the province and (2) the abuses in connection with the maintenance, administration, expansion and re-organisation of the Department of Civil Supplies.

Sir, the Civil Supplies Budget consumes such a large slice of the resources of the province that one could without importunity discuss many vital matters connected with the Civil Supplies Budget tonight for hours especially after the terrible famine which visited the province last year. We have been told that famine has been lifted. Has it been lifted? Even today, the ceiling price for rice in areas rationed is more than Rs. 16 per maund and in areas mentioned by my honourable friend, there is no question of rationing as there the black market is the only market available to the people, the supply is deficient and the price of rice is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 20 per maund.

Sir, as I was sitting patiently on benches now adorned by my honourable friends in March last year, and as I was listening to the oration of my honourable friend, the Education Minister, he was threatening the province with dire revolution, bloodshed, riot and so on when rice was selling at Rs. 13-8 per maund. That revolution has not come unless it is a revolution in the machinery and organisation of the administration. The other night, Mr. Speaker, I had the temerity and audacity to put a few questions to one of those gentlemen, second in the list, perhaps, in the Council of Ministers adorning the Treasury benches and since I have not had the privilege of the last word under the rules, I was accused of whimsicality and third class humour. Sir, I do not claim for myself the privilege of possessing humour. Let that monopoly belong to my friend, the Finance Minister only who I am sure has not yet forgotten Ben Johnson's wonderful drama—Every Man in his Humour. I need not reply to his charge of whimsicality because I have never regarded my honourable friend as a pattern of sanity or sobriety.

Mr. Speaker, so far as this cut motion is concerned, it is perfectly well-known to everybody in this province that the rationing system which has been limited to three articles has not proved that success which was advertised for it. In fact the quality of foodstuff supplied beggars all description Member after member in the course of the Budget session complained against the locality in which these foodstuffs were carelessly stored. No reply whatever has been forthcoming from the Treasury benches. It was once assumed that the Government of India which was responsible for the supply of 6,500 tons of foodstuffs to Calcutta was also responsible for the despatch of this quality of rice which is not evn fit for consumption of beasts of burden. My honourable friend, the Leader of the European group, who is accustomed to giving testimonials to the present Ministry from time to time and thereby effecting injections to pulseless patients said the other night that the responsibility for despatch and receipt was the responsibility of the Government of India. I am corrected by my friend, Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri, that he said, "ought to be the responsibility of the Government of India". Unfortunately, Sir, the spokesman of the Government of India elsewhere

made it absolutely clear that the responsibility for the supply of this rotten quality of rice and atta to this province is the responsibility of the receiving Government, namely, the Government of Bengal. I should like to, with your permission, read the reported statement of the spokesman of the Government of India on this point. Replying to the charge he said that "the quality of foodgrains supplied to deficit areas from the surplus areas was not the responsibility of the Central Government". Mr. Sen stated that the responsibility of arranging for inspection before despatch of foodgrains from the supplying areas with a view to ensuring about its quality was that of the provincial Government and not that of the Central Government——

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Under the present system.

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: My honourable friend says, "Under the present system", but there is no mention of "under the present system" here——

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I tell you that was not the past system.

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: My honourable friend is distinguishing between the past and the present. That distinction is always available but the present Ministry is a flux between the past and the future——(Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: When did the system begin?)——(At this stage the green light was on.)——Sir, the green light is on and I have only to mention one thing about my charges of corruption in connection with the maintenance, administration, expansion and reorganisation of the Department of Civil Supplies. This budget makes an extra provision of Rs. 68 lakhs for the purpose: I have been told that for Calcutta alone my honourable friend, the Civil Supplies Minister, has made 16,000 appointments and for the province 30,000. I should like to know from him on what basis these recruitments have been made, because charges of corrruption and co-ercion are absolutely immanent in the system where the Hon'ble Minister changes his mind from day to day and from night to night and regales the province with a plethora of rules and regulations.

Sir, there is just one point which has been mentioned by my honourable friend, Mr. Rai Chaudhuri. He mentioned about "point-rationing",—a technical expression. What he meant was that the Hon'ble Minister has no right to demand of the rice-eating people of the province that they must not eat rice! He has no right to take away their right to eat rice and rely on alternative foodstuff: such as wheat and *bajra*.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India", be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion to raise a discussion about the distribution of cloth and blanket by the executive officers generally and particularly in the Satkhira subdivision in the district of Khulna.

Sir, I beg also to move that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India", be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion to raise a discussion about Government's

failure in taking effective steps to solve the problem of civil supply, particularly of the following commodities, namely, good rice, sugar and kerosene oil.

Sir, ever since control was introduced in this province sugar and kerosene have not been available. Now, Sir, it has been stated by different speakers how corruption has been rampant in the mofassil. Everybody knows, Sir, that the police is corrupt and absolutely dishonest in this province. But now we are surprised to hear that even I.C.S. and B.C.S. officers are corrupt. We have recently had evidence of that in the prosecution of several I.C.S. and other officers of Government. There is one Mr. Menon of the Indian Civil Service who was at one time an officer in my constituency. I complained against his dishonest conduct to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Police Department of the previous Government as well as to Sir Nazimuddin——

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Should you permit names to be mentioned of officers who cannot come and defend themselves here?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not desirable, Mr. Banerji.

Mr. P. BANERJI: All right, Sir. But it is a matter of common knowledge that many officers of Government are dishonest. Sir, I shall cite one instance. I shall take the case of the district to which Sj. Manindra Bhusan Sinha belongs,—I mean the district of Bankura. The allotment of sugar for that district is 1,600 maunds of which one-half is meant for towns and the other half is meant for rural areas. The population of the municipal area is 50,000 while the population of the rural area is 1,150,000. We cannot imagine how 800 maunds of sugar will do for 1,150,000 people while 50,000 people in three subdivisions get 800 maunds of sugar. Now, Sir, it is well-known that this sugar is also distributed in the town because we have no alternative. Whenever people approach them, they say that there is no stock, but immediately afterwards we find that sugar is given to the favourites and they sell in the black market at a very high rate. The Government controlled rate is 7 annas a seer but it is a well-known fact that in some districts in the mofussil sugar is sold at Rs. 1-8 and Rs. 1-12 a seer. That is exactly the state of affairs. If Government is really honest, it is its duty to see that sugar is substituted by *gur*. *Gur* is sold in the neighbouring province of Bihar at 2 annas a seer. If Government brings that *gur* as substitute, the people of Bengal will give the present Government their blessings, but Government will not move an inch. This is about sugar.

Now, Sir, I will speak about kerosene oil. Twenty-two gallons of kerosene oil have been allotted for 2,200 families, that is, one gallon for one hundred families. That is also not given. On the basis of 50 per cent. for the town and 50 per cent. for the mofussil, you can well imagine how it is possible for these 1,150,000 people to manage. The whole country is practically going dark.

Sir, the distribution of other commodities is also very irregular and inequitable. Several complaints have been made here by the people of Calcutta. We have heard of Hobson's choice. There was a stable-owner

in London who used to deal in horses. You must go and give him the money but you cannot make any choice of horses. Whatever Mr. Hobson gives, you have to accept it. Similar is the case with controlled shops. There are shops which do not keep sun-rice but they only keep boiled rice and you must accept it. Sir, I do not complain about *atta* and rice, but I say this much that a Hindu widow does not take boiled rice and it is no use supplying her with boiled rice as she cannot take it. It is a ridiculous state of affairs. You will be surprised to hear that there is a general complaint that they pile things in Government stores also. It is reported in today's paper that one Mr. Yusuf Ali, Manager of a Government Store, was fined Rs. 500 by the Senior Deputy Magistrate of Midnapore as he was found guilty of mixing sand with rice. So long we have heard that sand could be mixed with *atta*, sugar or salt, but he started mixing sand with rice. This was done in a Government shop.

Sir, the other day Mr. Suhrawardy said that he himself had seen so many lakhs of maunds of paddy lying on the railway platform, but he also knew that a portion of it was afterwards removed to Chetla. It was unfit for human consumption but it has been mixed up and that is being sold. Sir, I brought some sample the other day for presentation to the Hon'ble Minister.

Sir, this is a state of affairs which everyone knows but there is no remedy. Everyone looks up to the Hon'ble Minister to set things right but the Hon'ble Minister does not take things seriously. When the complaint is made, he will say at once that it is propaganda. But he has his personal eye and I request him to place his hands on his breast and say in the name of God or Allah whether it is a fact or whether he will shut his eyes like the proverbial ostrich and kill people in the country as he has done. They are heading for a crisis and it is time to cry halt. It is time that the Hon'ble Minister should see things for himself.

Sir, there is no time. I will say another thing about the distribution of blankets and cloths.

(At this stage the red light was lit.)

Sir, with these words I move my motion.

Mr. I. C. KENNEDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently official news of the food situation in Bengal has been decidedly scanty, and I think the House is entitled to know from the Hon'ble Minister how Government's plans are working before it is asked to vote this grant. In particular we want to be sure that the money we vote will be well used, and that its expenditure will, as far as possible, secure for every man, woman and child in the province a fair share of the available food. We also want to be reassured that no stone is being left unturned to ensure greater cultivation of food crops so that our dependency on outside sources of supply are lessened, particularly at a time when the transport system of India is so overloaded.

Let us take stock of the position. The *aman* crop has been bountiful, but much of it still remains to be secured, and a recent statement in this connection by the Food Member in the Council of State is disquieting. He said that the bulk of the grain in Bengal still remains in the hands of growers who are holding it for gain.

This, Sir, is serious news and confirms reports from many parts of the mufassal. Government must face up to the situation and be prepared to act boldly in the matter of making the cultivators disgorge their surpluses, otherwise the outlook for the province is indeed grim.

Hoarding for gain can be eliminated only when hoarders are convinced that they have nothing to gain by holding on, and so Government's first step must be to make price control effective and stop, as far as possible, black market outlets. This is no easy task administratively and it requires the willing assistance of the general public of Bengal.

Along with the tightening up of price control, consumer goods of the type required by the rural population must be made available in adequate quantities to stimulate the sale of foodgrains. At the present time money has little value or meaning in the mufassal for there is little or nothing which it can buy. There is thus no immediate incentive to exchange rice or other foodgrains for cash.

A feature of price control to which I would draw Government's attention is that no retail prices of rice have been fixed outside the rationed area. If the grower's price is fixed, and the wholesale merchant's and the rice mill's, surely it is unfair to allow the retailer to make what profit he likes on his sales. Control of a commodity demands the pegging of prices at *all* important stages in the chain of distribution, and it is difficult to see why the retailer has been left out, for he is a most important link in that chain.

Sir, the procurement of the *aman* crop is the main pre-occupation of Government, for its price cannot be controlled or its fair distribution ensured unless Government have physical hold over proper supplies. Certain buying agents have been appointed and we should like to know how their purchasing programme is proceeding and if Government are satisfied with the stocks so far secured. We should also like to know to what extent trade channels are being used, for it seems to us that unless these function normally up to the stage of the secondary markets, Government will be faced with an intricate transport problem, and the small growers will find it difficult to market their grain. It must be remembered that it is the trade which collects rice from the small growers and moves it by bullock cart or boat to the important centres of distribution. I do not think any hastily improvised Government organisation is likely to do this work successfully.

Then Sir, there is the question of storage of procured supplies, and we should like to hear from the Hon'ble Minister what arrangements have been made to house them adequately. It is of little use for Government to buy large quantities of rice if these cannot be properly stored, and so deteriorate. Certain ominous notices in the press inviting tenders for Government stocks of foodgrains give the unpleasant impression that there is a lot of bad food in the province. Grain unfit for human consumption can, I know, be used for feeding cattle, but such stocks are much more likely to find their way into the hands of unscrupulous dealers who will use them for purposes of adulteration. The health of Bengal is bad enough without being further threatened by the indiscriminate release of tainted

foodstuffs. We should like to know how Government view this matter, and what is done to ensure that bad grain disposed fo by them is not being foisted on the general public.

In surveying the general food situation we have to be thankful for the assurance of the Government of India that they will take care of supplies for Greater Calcutta. This is a great help to the Bengal Government, but I would like to point out that it is not in Calcutta alone that the success or failure of their food administration will be judged. No scheme of food distribution can be considered adequate unless supplies are assured to the inhabitants of the remotest village, at controlled rates. We should like to hear from the Hon'ble Minister how food distribution is proceeding in the mofussil, and if the arrangements for transporting rice from surplus to deficit districts are now working smoothly.

A final word on the administrative machinery of food distribution. This has been strengthened, but we in this party feel that it is still inadequate. In particular, the Civil Supply Department lacks an enforcement branch. Sir, it is useless to issue orders and directives if they cannot be carried out effectively, and we fear that the idea still prevails that once an order has been published, the job is as good as done. Orders in plenty pour from the Civil Supply Department, but how many of them get to the stage of being rigorously enforced.

This matter of enforcement cannot be delayed; otherwise present opportunities will pass and Bengal will again slide into the morass of tragic muddle from which it has so recently and painfully emerged.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, A. R. P. বিভাগে উপযুক্ত সংখ্যক মুসলমান নেওয়ার ব্যাপারে জুলুম করার দরুণ মি সুরাবর্দ্দী, খাজা স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন ও তাঁহাদের দলের সদস্যগণ মি: ফজলুল হকের তৎকালীন Progressive Ministryকে যথেষ্ট নিন্দা কোরেছিলেন, এবং মি: ফজলুল হকের পতনের এটাও একটা কারণ ছিল যে A. R. P. বিভাগে মুসলমানদের দাবী রক্ষিত হয় নাই। তারপর খাজা স্যার নাজিমুদ্দীন ও মি: সুরাবর্দ্দী বাংলার মুসলমান সমাজকে এই প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়াছিলেন যে—"মুসলমানদের যে সমস্ত দাবী রক্ষিত হয় নাই, আমরা তা পরিপূরণ করবো।" সেই জন্যই তাঁরা মুসলমান সমাজের আস্থাভাজন হতে পেরেছিলেন এবং সেই জন্যই মুসলীম লীগ Minister বর্ত্তমান আকারে form করতে পেরেছিলেন। কিন্তু Minister হবার পর সে প্রতিশ্রুতি আজ পর্য্যন্তও পালন করেন নাই, ফলে A. R. P.তে মুসলমানদের দাবী সম্বন্ধে বিগত মন্ত্রিসভার আমলে যে অবস্থা, বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিসভার আমলে তার কিছুমাত্র উন্নতি হয় নাই। বরং আগে যেরূপ চলেছিল এখন তার চেয়ে বেশী জুলুম চলেছে। Ministerদের নিকট বহু specific case উপস্থিত করা সত্ত্বেও তাঁরা কোন প্রতিকার করেন নাই। বরং মুসলমান সমাজের দাবীর প্রতি অবহেলা করিয়া আসিতেছেন, নিজেদের স্বার্থ রক্ষা করিতেছেন।

তারপর মি: ফজলুল হকের বিগত মন্ত্রিসভার আমলে চালের দর যখন ১৪৲ থেকে ১৮৲ টাকা উঠেছিল, তখন তৎকালীন Opposition Leader মি: সুরাবর্দ্দী ও স্যার নাজিমুদ্দীন

ও তাঁহাদের দলবল তৎকালীন গভর্ণমেণ্টের বিরুদ্ধে এই পরিষদের ভিতর কঠোর মন্তব্য করেছিলেন কিন্তু আশ্চর্য্যের বিষয় যেদিন থেকে স্যার নাজিমুদ্দীন বাংলা দেশের শাসনভার এবং মিঃ সুরাবর্দ্দী food supplyএর ভার গ্রহণ করলেন সঙ্গে সঙ্গেই চালের দর ১৮৲ টাকা থেকে ২৪৲ টাকায় উঠলো। তারপর ক্রমশঃ বাড়তে বাড়তে এই মন্ত্রিসভারই কৃতিত্বের ফলে নোয়াখালী ও অন্যান্য জেলায় ৮০৲ টাকা হইতে ১০০৲ টাকা পর্য্যন্ত উঠেছিল। ঢাকা ও অপর কয়েকটি জেলার কোন কোন জায়গায়—আমি জানি চালের দর সের প্রতি ২।০ টাকা থেকে ৩।।০ টাকা পর্য্যন্ত উঠেছিল। এই ঘটনার দ্বারা supply ও rationing সম্বন্ধে এই Ministryর দারুণ অযোগ্যতা বিশেষরূপে প্রতিপন্ন হয়েছে। এখনও নোয়াখালিতে চাউলের মূল্য ২০৲ টাকার উপরে বিক্রী হইতেছে। এখনও দুর্ভিক্ষ চলিতেছে কিন্তু কোন প্রকার সাহায্যের বন্দোবস্ত নাই।

Sir, Hon'ble Mr. সুরাবর্দ্দী এবং Hon'ble Sir. নাজিমুদ্দীন দু'জনের একজনকেও এখানে দেখছি না। কিন্তু বিশেষ দুঃখের সঙ্গে বলতে হচ্ছে যেদিন থেকে বাংলার Hon'ble Mr. Surhawardy Supply বিভাগের ভার নিয়েছেন সেদিন থেকেই বাংলা দেশকে দুর্ভিক্ষ রাক্ষসী গ্রাস করেছে। এই ৫।৭ মিনিট সময়ের মধ্যে সেই দুর্ভিক্ষের বিশেষ বিবরণ এখানে দেওয়া সম্ভবপর দেখি না, সকলেই সেটা নিজ নিজ এলাকায় ও নির্ব্বাচন-কেন্দ্রে অল্পাধিক প্রত্যক্ষ করেছেন এখনও দেখিতেছেন। কিন্তু এই দুর্ভিক্ষের কবলে মানুষের কতটা অবনতি ঘটেছে তার ২।১টা বিষয় আমি এখানে না দিয়া পারিলাম না। এবারকার এই দুর্ভিক্ষ মানুষকে নিজ মনুষ্যত্ববোধের মর্য্যাদা বিসর্জন দিয়া নামমাত্র মূল্যে নিজ নিজ ছেলেমেয়ে বিক্রয় করিতে পর্য্যন্ত বাধ্য কোরেছে। Sir, নোয়াখালি জেলার সদর থানা, রামপুর, লক্ষ্মীপুর প্রভৃতি অঞ্চলে বহু নমঃশুদ্র ও দরিদ্র মুসলমান পেটের দায়ে ছেলেমেয়েদের বিক্রয় করেছে, পূর্ব্ব ও পশ্চিম বঙ্গের অনেক স্থান হইতে অনুরূপ ঘটনার কথা শোনা যাইতেছে। এই অবস্থায় বাংলা দেশের গভর্ণমেণ্টের Ministry যাঁরা নিয়েছেন তাঁরা এবং তাঁদের Parliamentary Secretary বাহিনীরা নিজেদের স্বার্থসাধনের জন্য সারা বাংলা দেশে tour করে বেড়িয়ে বাংলা সরকারের অর্থ ধ্বংস করা ছাড়া দেশের কোন উপকারই করেন নাই। দেশের জনসাধারণ এই স্বার্থপর তথাকথিত Parliamentary Secretaryদিগকে মন্ত্রীদের Literate জমাদার বলিয়া থাকে। এই সেক্রেটারিগণ নিজের নিজের স্বার্থ না দেখিয়া যদি জনসাধারণের কাজে নিজেকে ব্যস্ত রাখিতেন, Parliamentary সেক্রেটারীর দায়ত্ব পালন করিতেন তাহা হইলে জনমত ইহাদিগকে Literate জমাদার উপাধি দিতেন না।

গত বর্ষায় মাননীয় শিক্ষা-সচিব মিঃ তমিজুদ্দিন খাঁ যখন নোয়াখালি, ত্রিপুরা জেলায় ভ্রমণে গিয়াছিলেন আমি সোনাইমুড়ি রেল ষ্টেশন হইতে কুমিল্লা পর্য্যন্ত তাঁহার সঙ্গে ছিলাম। যখন সোনাইমুড়ি ষ্টেশন হইতে লাকসাম জংশনে গাড়ী আসিয়া দাঁড়াল খোদার কি মহিমা; ঠিক Hon'ble Ministerএর গাড়ীর সম্মুখেই দুইটি মরা লাশ, ১টি পুরুষ, ১টি মেয়েলোক, দুইটি মুসলমান, দুইটিই উপবাসে মৃত। Hon'ble Mr Khan গাড়ী হইতে নামিয়া waiting roomএতে যাইয়া বসেন, কয়েকজন লোক তাঁহাকে লাশ দেখিতে অনুরোধ করেন। Hon'ble Mr. Khan লাশ দেখিতে অস্বীকার করেন। জনসাধারণের অনুরোধ refuse করেন। তখন কয়েকজন লোক অনুতপ্ত হৃদয়ে দীর্ঘ নিঃশ্বাসের সহিত বলেন যে "হায় ফজলুল হক! স্বার্থপরদের কথায় তোমাকে হত্যা করিয়াছি, তোমাকে অপমান করেছি।" তৎপর কয়েকটি লোক মৃত লাশ দুইটির সৎকারের জন্য দাফন ও কাফনের সাহায্য চাহিলে Hon'ble Mr. Khan একখানা ১৲ টাকার নোট পকেট থেকে দিলেন!! দিয়ে বল্লেন—এই সাহায্য আমি দিলাম। তখন যখন তখন মুসলমান যারা উপস্থিত

ছিলো চীৎকার আরম্ভ করলে তখন আমার মনে এই কথাটাই উদয় হয়েছিলো যারা আমাদের দেশবাসীর সমস্ত দুঃখের সঙ্গে জড়িত নয় তারা কি করে আমাদের অবস্থা বুঝবে। আমি যেকথা পূর্ব্বে বলেছি যে বাংলা দেশে মানুষ বিক্রয় হয়েছে খেতে না পেয়ে এবং খেতে না পেয়ে মানুষ হাজারে হাজারে মরেছে আর শৃগাল-কুকুরের দল মৃত দেহগুলি টেনে টেনে নিয়ে খেয়েছে তখন বাংলা দেশের এই নাজি মিনিষ্টার ১৩ জন Minister ও ১৭ জন পার্লামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারী বাংলার জনগণের অর্থ নিয়ে ছিনিমিনি করে মনের আনন্দে খেলিতেছেন। Sir, রোম শহর যখন অগ্নির লেলিহান জিহ্বায় দাউ দাউ করিয়া জ্বলিয়া ধ্বংসস্তূপে পরিণত হতেছে তখন রোমরাজ নীরো নিজেকে বিলাসভোগে ও আমোদ-প্রমোদে ডুবাইয়া রাখিয়া রোমকে ভুলিয়া গিয়াছিলেন। এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী ও তাহাদের Parliamentaryগণ রোমরাজ নীরোর——

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QUADIR: Sir, I wish to speak a few words with regard to some of the points raised in the course of this debate.

Though I am not on friendly terms with the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, yet I cannot but congratulate him for undertaking the herculian task of tackling the most urgent and unprecedented food problem with courage, determination and devotion to duty and for his ably handling the situation almost successfully fighting with the Central Government and bringing the situation under control as far as humanly possible. His honest effort was helped by Providence through the intervention of His Excellency Lord Wavell and the Military Department. Had not the Hon'ble Minister boldly stood this acid test the consequence would have been disastrous. Though there are many loopholes here and there, these ought to have been overlooked for greater good achieved. As an observer, keeping aside all criticism, I wish to suggest a few remedial measures which require immediate rectification. Foodstuff that is being supplied is sometimes found to be unfit for human consumption. In Calcutta, I found, only unboiled rice is supplied to some shops and the proportion of broken rice is greater than that of the whole grain. Two kinds of rice should be supplied in each shop. Kerosene oil and mustard oil should also be rationed. Rice milled in Chittagong is simply detached from husk and not at all polished and even husks remain intact. Last time also I mentioned about this in my Budget speech and represented this fact to the local authorities but to no effect. The next is the supply of *bajra* and *joar*. During the last year we were forced to eat them. We the towns —people have no grinding stone (*jata*) or *dhcki* to make them eatable. A general complaint arose that *bajra* products were not congenial to the health of the rice-eater. So *bajra* should be excluded from supply of food-grains, specially to the people of East Bengal.

As regards purchase of paddy and rice the policy adopted in Bengal has not been clearly defined and notified in the press. There are instances in the district of Chittagong of purchasing paddy by requisition even now and compelling the growers and owners to take them to the Chittagong town and deliver them at the godown of mill-owner and Government. The risk is serious and transportation difficult. We have not come across any such order prevailing in other places except Chittagong. Hon'ble Minister stated in his reply to starred question No. 103(2), dated 18th February,

1944, that "agriculturists who have more than their needs are being persuaded to part with their surplus stocks for sale or to loan it out to their needy neighbours". This order should be strictly followed by the local officers. The system of requisition should be stopped and purchase should be made in the open market or through voluntary sale. When persuasion fails then only requisition should be made.

In this connection I highly appreciate the free feeding of the destitutes by the Calcutta Muslim Chamber of Commerce and other organisations. In Chittagong the Calcutta Muslim Chamber of Commerce fed over 1,000 destitutes and supplied 250 children daily with milk in all 5 different centres in the villages for 2 months from November 15th to January 14th last. For this charity they have earned the everlasting gratitude of the people of Chittagong. As regards supplying free standard cloth and blankets we appreciate the noble projects of the Government. In each union about 100 cloth pieces of and 40 blankets were distributed free in the Chittagong district. Particularly Mr. M. M. Stuart, the District Magistrate of Chittagong, was kind enough to hand over to me 2,716 pieces of standard cloth for free distribution within the Chittagong Municipal area. I took up this troublesome work and volunteered my services and traversed the area from one corner to another and examined the real destitutes and delivered the cloth to the proper and most deserving persons. But I could not meet the full demand of the poor, thousands left out. Specially fishermen require more cloth though I gave them more than their quota according to population basis. The District Magistrate has given full quota according to population basis, yet it was inadequate.

Besides, the Calcutta Muslim Chamber of Commerce has sent 17 bales of standard cloth and 2 bales of shirting and about 3,000 blankets for free distribution within the district of Chittagong. In Bengal the Chamber has distributed Rs. 70,000 worth blankets for which we accord our grateful thanks to that Chamber.

Over and above All-India Women's Relief Committee was kind enough to run a Free Milk Canteen at Chittagong town and also contributed Rs. 250 for free gift of clothes to the babies and Rs. 100 for the treatment of sick babies. Two hundred and eighty babies were supplied with 1 yard shirting each, the Government supplied 100 *saris* to the mothers of the babies through Mrs. D. G. Cumming (wife of Colonel Cumming) a most philanthropic lady, President of the All-India Women's Relief Committee, Branch Chittagong. Khan Bahadur Farid Ahmed Choudhuri has also very kindly presented 100 grey shirts to the babies and the Royal Air Force has also made a gift of some frocks to the babies so the babies attending the Free Milk Canteen of the All-India Women's Relief Committee have been well provided. In this connection I must express my gratitude to Mrs. Shamsun Nahar Mahmood, a member of the Standing Committee of All-India Women's Conference, Branch Calcutta, for her keen interest and great help she has rendered in starting this Milk Canteen at Chittagong.

Last of all, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister at what price the Government of India have been purchasing rice through different provinces, at what rate that rice is being sold in Calcutta and in other places

of Bengal, what is the profit that they and other provincial Governments have been making by sucking the blood of Bengal. There is nothing published in the newspapers regarding the prices charged by other Provincial Governments and the prices prevailing in those provinces themselves. I hope the Hon'ble Minister would be pleased to enlighten us on these points.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish I could join with the previous speaker in congratulating my Hon'ble friend Mr. Suhrawardy. I think I voice the sentiment of the entire House that if this department were run properly, every one in this House would vie with one another in congratulating him, because on the proper administration of this department depends our every-day life—high and low.

Sir, I had been thinking, as I was listening to the speeches made this evening, particularly when Mr. Kennedy asked, what is the programme and how is the policy and programme progressing? The proper question to ask would be: Is the department competent enough, has the Hon'ble Minister in charge or the Ministry any power to implement even what they propose to do? Sir, there is an Anti-Hoarding and Anti-Profiteering Ordinance which covers the necessities of life other than those for which separate departments are functioning. Are the Government prepared to take the help of the public in administering that Ordinance for the benefit of the people of this province?

Sir, the ceiling prices of articles are fixed. We know the ceiling prices of cloth—the wholesale price and the retail price—are fixed, but is Government seeing to it that these ceiling prices are maintained in the actual field? We know, Sir, that the price is stamped on the cloth, but the wholesaler refuses to sell to the retailer at that price. If he goes to the wholesaler, the wholesaler would tell him that it has been sold to somebody. The result is, these retailers have got to negotiate with those people and pay extra price for the purpose of getting the supply.

Then, in the matter of Anti-Hoarding and Anti-Profiteering Ordinance an officer is working, but is he getting public assistance? There was a helpers' committee, I understand, but is it functioning at all? I think Mr. Kennedy said that without public assistance it was not possible for Government officers to enforce any programme. The whole question is, is the Ministry going to take public assistance? Sometime I have wondered within myself, either the Ministry has not got complete power, cannot have their own way, or there is some reason, best known to them alone, why the things are not worked in the way that the people of the province would like. Let the Minister and the Ministry take the House into confidence and let them tell us what is the exact position. Have they not got sufficient power to enforce price control, at least of the barest necessities of life? Even if they have, they are not exercising it. We find that they notify some prices but they do not take any step to enforce those prices. They cannot possibly avoid the only irresistible inference that for some reason, best known to them, they do not want to enforce them.

Sir, the second thing is this. Today, we know that for want of kerosene the poor people are suffering. I had been to the interior of the Dacca

district for the purpose of arranging what help I could. I heard that people were attacked with malaria and other diseases. I asked a certain local doctor who was then available to give them help without minding for his fees for which I undertook to make arrangements. He came and reported, "I went there in the evening, but I could not examine the patients. There were no kerosene lamps. With some jute sticks lighted we went, but it was not possible to examine the patients".

Sir, I should also like to mention again as the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Industries Department, did not think it worth taking notice that the poor agriculturists who ply the handloom in the evening in order to supplement their income cannot do that for want of kerosene. Why cannot that be arranged? I mention this because I remember that in a meeting the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy said, "I am going to take steps: Government is going to make arrangements for the distribution of kerosene and to stop profiteering that is going on." That was at Dacca. I ask again, have you got the power? I see, nothing is done.

Then, Sir, I would also mention about salt. The price of salt has been fixed at Rs. 11-10 per maund. Five firms have been given the right to import salt. I know you cannot get out of them any salt unless you pay them 15 rupees. Either the Government know this or if they do not, they must lay themselves open to charge of utter incompetence. In the mofussil, we know, many people take rice only with a pinch of salt; even that they cannot get now. Can the Ministry for one moment remain unalert to a question like this? Let them take the House into confidence and let them tell us what they are going to do with regard to cloth, with regard to salt and with regard to kerosene which are the most crying needs at the present moment.

Then again, Sir, there is a Provincial Textile Board. What is its function? How is it that with regard to cloth we cannot get it sent out to the interior, we cannot get the proper stamping on the cloth, there is undue delay, and all that? Sir, my time is short, otherwise I could have specifically given instances showing that at every step Government is neglecting or bungling for reasons best known to them.

Now, Sir, what is the function of the Provincial Advisory Board of the Textile Department we should like to know. I would request the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department to tell the House what exact steps they are taking. They should at least see that the different orders which they issue from time to time are complied with.

Sir, with regard to the cancelling of licences of the dealers of cloth, something wrong is going on. We are hearing of very ugly rumours about what is happening. We want to know why no steps are being taken so that cloths may be available in all parts of the province in sufficient quantities at controlled rates.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, জনসাধারণের খাদ্য সরবরাহের দিকে দৃষ্টিপাত করলে, এই বিভাগটাকে খাদ্য সরবরাহ বিভাগ না বলে "লুটপাট' বিভাগ বলাই উচিত হয় এবং খাদ্য সরবরাহের মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে সরবরাহের মন্ত্রী না বলে লুটপাটের মন্ত্রী বল্লেই ঠিক হয়। কারণ এই বিভাগের ভিতর দিয়ে বাংলা দেশে বর্ত্তমানে যেরকম লুটপাট

চলেছে তার কথা বলে শেষ করা যায় না। এ বিষয় সম্বন্ধে বাংলা দেশের সকলেই বিশেষ অবগত আছে। এই দেশে এই খাদ্য সরবরাহের দুর্নীতির ফলে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক যে মরেছে সে কথাও বলার আর দরকার নাই। এবং বলে কোন লাভও নাই কারণ বাংলা দেশে যে ফেরাউনের রাজত্ব চলেছে তাতে এইসব লুটপাট সংশোধনের জন্য যতই চিৎকার আমরা করি না কেন আমরা বিশেষভাবেই জানি যে, তারা সেটা সংশোধন করতে পারবে না, তাদের অধীনস্থ কর্ম্মচারীদের দুষ্কর্ম্ম তারা সংশোধন করতে পারবে না। তার কারণ গাঁজাখোর পিতা কখনও ছেলের তামাক খাওয়াটা বারণ করতে পারে না। (Laughter.)

আজ আমি এই প্রসঙ্গে মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে বলতে চাই—আমি সেদিনও তাদের এই কথাটা ভালো কোরে বলেছি—লীগের নামে বাংলা দেশে ফেরাউনী রাজত্ব চালাতে চান:—(A VOICE; ফেরাউন অর্থ কি তা' কি আপনি জানেন?) তার প্রমাণ গত পরশু দিন মিঃ আবদুর রহমান সিদ্দিকী ভাল কোরেই দিয়েছেন। তাঁর কার্য্যের দ্বারা আরো ভাল করেই সুস্পষ্টভাবেই প্রমাণিত হয়েছে যে, এ রাজত্ব ফেরাউনী ছাড়া আর কিছুই নয়। মিঃ সিদ্দিকী বাংলার, ভারতের তথা পৃথিবীর আলেমদের ও বুজুর্গ লোকদের প্রতি যেরকম কঠোর উক্তি করেছেন সে কাজ কোন মুসলমানের পক্ষেই করা সম্ভব নয়। আজ মুসলমান সমাজ যতখানি উন্নত বলে পরিচয় দেবার সৌভাগ্য লাভ করেছে সে শুধু আলেমদেরই কৃপায়—সেই আলেমদের প্রতি কটূক্তি করা সঙ্গত কি না, ইস্‌লামের উপযুক্ত কার্য্য কি না, সেটা তাঁর চিন্তা করা উচিত ছিল। যে আলেম সমাজ ও বুজুর্গ লোকের কল্যাণে মিঃ সিদ্দিকী মুসলমানের সন্তান বলে পরিচয় দেওয়ার সৌভাগ্য লাভ করেছেন সেই সব লোকের প্রতি কটূক্তি করতে তার লজ্জা করা উচিত ছিল।

যাক, এখন আমি এই সরবরাহ বিভাগের একটা দুষ্কর্ম্মের কথা উল্লেখ করছি। এবং আমার নিজের গ্রামের একটা ঘটনার কথা বলছি। তাহাতে লীগওয়ালারা পরিষদের ভিতরে ও বাহিরে কিরূপ গুণ্ডামি করিয়েছে তাহা প্রকাশ পাবে। আমার গ্রামের একটি লোকের কিছু ধান ছিল। গত কার্ত্তিক মাসে সার্কেল অফিসার বল্লেন, "তোমার ধান তুমি বিক্রয় করতে পারবে না।" গ্রামের আশেপাশের লোক যখন খাদ্যের অভাবে চিৎকার করতে আরম্ভ করলো তখন গভর্ণমেণ্টের হুকুম না নিয়ে সেই অভাবগ্রস্ত লোকদের বাঁচবার জন্য সে কিছু ধান কণ্ট্রোলের দরে সেই লোকদের দিয়েছিল, ব্যাপারটা গেল এইভাবে। ইতিমধ্যে আমাদের গ্রামের ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের ভূতপূর্ব্ব প্রেসিডেণ্টের বাড়ীতে চুরি হয়ে গেল। তিনি মস্ত বড় লীগওয়ালা কিন্তু চুরির কোন এজাহার দেন নাই। কয়েক দিন পরে দিনের বেলায় দুইজন লোককে নিজে ধরে হোম গার্ডের লোকেরা রাত্রে ধরেছে বলে কেপটেনকে দিয়ে লোক দুইটাকে চালান দিলেন। পুলিশ তদন্তে এসে দেখে ব্যাপারটা গোলমেলে, দারোগা কিছু না পেলে রিপোর্ট দিতে চান না, প্রেসিডেণ্ট বেশ একজন বড় চালাক লোক, তিনি পুলিশ অফিসারকে বল্লেন—"আচ্ছা আমি আপনাকে কিছু পাইয়ে দিচ্ছি, আপনি আমার রিপোর্টটা ভাল করে দিন।" এই বোলে দারোগা সহ সেই ধান বিক্রয়কারীর বাড়ী গিয়ে হাজির—দারোগা তাকে বল্লে—তোমার নামে warrant আছে। তুমি কেন বিনানুমতিতে ধান বিক্রয় করেছ?" এই বলে তার কাছ থেকে কিছু আদায় করে রিপোর্ট দিয়ে দিল, কেস সত্য বলে রিপোর্ট দিয়ে দিল, পর অবশ্য মোকদ্দমা ডিসমিস হয়ে গেছে কারণ আসামীরা কতিপয় বিশিষ্ট লোককে সাফাই সাক্ষি মানে এবং তাহাদের সাফাইতে আসামীরা খালাস পায়। কিন্তু প্রেসিডেণ্ট তাহার হাতের গুণ্ডা লোকদের দ্বারা সেই রাত্রেই একজন গণ্যমান্য লোকের আলুক্ষেত উপড়াইয়া নষ্ট করে দেয়, সাফাই দেওয়ার অপরাধে, এই হল লীগওয়ালাদের কীর্ত্তি।

Mr. SPEAKER: মৌলবী সাহেব আপনার সময় উত্তীর্ণ হয়েছে।

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: Sir, endeavours have been made in this House to fix the responsibility of the last famine on different persons and institutions. Some say that the Imperialists of the East and the West are responsible. Some endeavour to fix the responsibility on Clive Street and Ezra Street, on the present Ministry, on the present Minister of Supplies, on the war and some such other bodies. But there is no gainsaying the fact that the principal responsibility for the last famine rests with the outgoing Ministry. They did not take measures in time; they could not foresee the situation that was coming, the danger that was facing Bengal. Innumerable people in Bengal have died through starvation, lakhs have succumbed to diseases. True, but had not the present Ministry come in office many more lakhs would have died in Bengal and had not hundreds and thousands of gruel kitchens been opened in time Bengal would have been turned into a desolate tract by this time.

Sir, speaking on this demand I would like to mention one thing and draw the attention of the Ministry towards that, and that is the disparity of supply between the mufassal and town areas. In my own district and subdivision, nearly half the amount of kerosene and sugar was consumed by the town, though the town population was only a microscopic proportion of the population of the rural areas. Then, subsidised food that was supplied was almost exhausted in municipal towns. The rural people got no share of it till the eleventh hour. I see in the budget that for the coming year 5 crores of rupees has been set apart for subsidised food. I would like to ask the Government to see that the major portion of this amount is devoted to the relief of the people in rural areas.

Sir, owing to this disparity in supply between mufassal and town areas people in mufassal areas had to suffer many deficiencies in their food and so had to succumb to diseases. They got no sugar, they got no kerosene and they are deprived of many of their articles of daily need.

Sir, I learn that Government is at present despatching salt to mufassal from its own stock. I will also ask Government to despatch this salt in such a way that it is scattered all over the place and not sent only to towns. There is no scope at present for storing salt, when a salt famine is there in the country. Salt must be scattered and distributed all over the province. The scarcity is such that storing is out of the question.

This is all I have to say.

Maulvi MUSTAFA ALI DEWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, বাজেট সেসনে সকলেই কিছু কিছু বলিয়াছেন; M. L. A. হিসাবে আমারও মনে স্বভাবসুলভ কিছু বলার একটা প্রবল আকাঙ্ক্ষা জাগিয়াছে। কাহারও নিন্দা করা ইসলাম ধর্ম্মমতে অনুচিত; কিন্তু দেশের অবস্থা দৃষ্টে আমাদের কার্য্যকলাপ সর্ব্বসাক্ষাতে আলোচনা করা আমি ইসলাম বিগর্হিত বলিয়া মনে করি না।

দেশের ঘোর দুর্দ্দিনে, যখন ৪০৲ টাকা চাউলের মণ বিক্রয় হইতেছিল, এবারে তখন ১৪৲ টাকা পাটের উচ্চ মূল্য নির্দ্ধারণ করিয়া দেওয়া হইল। যখন দেশে চাউলের দাম মণপ্রতি ৩।৪৲ টাকা ছিল, তখন পাটের মণ ১০৲ হইতে ১৫৲ টাকা করিয়া বিক্রয় হইত। বিদেশ হইতে টাকা এদেশে আসার একমাত্র পথ—পাট বিক্রয়। ইহা করিয়া চাষীদের হালের বলদ, সাদিগমির ও খাওয়া-পরার সুবিধা করার উপায় ছিল। চাউলের উচ্চ মূল্যের অনুপাতে পাটের দর

১৫০৲ কি ১৭৫৲ টাকা হইলেও বেশী হইত না। এই অবস্থায় সংখ্যালঘু Jute Co.দের হাতে রাখার কুআশায় এই নিম্ন হারে দর বাঁধিয়া দিয়া সংখ্যাবহুল দেশবাসীর সর্ব্বনাশ করা হইয়াছে। সুতরাং বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলকে আমাদের আর চালু হইতে দেওয়া উচিত নহে।

পূর্ব্বে ৭।৮৲ টাকা চাউলের মণ হইলেই দেশময় হাহাকার পড়িয়া যাইত। কিন্তু ৪০।৫০। ৬০৲ টাকা হারে, স্থানবিশেষে, চাউলের দর হওয়া সত্ত্বেও এসেমব্লির গণ্যমান্য ব্যক্তিগণ দুর্ভিক্ষ ঘোষণা করার প্রস্তাব আনিলে ইউরোপিয়ান দল সহ সংখ্যাধিক্যের গর্ব্বে বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিসভা তাহা ঘোষণা করেন নাই বা করিতে সাহস পান নাই, বরং মিথ্যা প্রচার করিয়াছিলেন যে, বাংলায় খাদ্যের (চাউল ইত্যাদির) অভাব নাই ও হইবে না। ফলে লক্ষ লক্ষ মানুষ না খাইয়া মরিয়া গেল। নিরীহ বঙ্গদেশবাসী বাঙ্গালী ছাড়া অন্য কোন স্বাধীন দেশে এমত হইলে কত কি কাণ্ড যে ঘটিত তাহা শ্রোতাগণ নিজেরাই অনুমান করিতে পারেন। সুতরাং যে মন্ত্রিসভা বাংলার এহেন বিপদ-কালেও সৎসাহসের অভাবে দুর্ভিক্ষ ঘোষণা করিতে পারেন নাই এরূপ মন্ত্রিসভাকে চালু রাখিয়া বঙ্গের বাকি লোকদের মরিয়া যাইতে দেওয়ার প্রশ্রয় দান করা আমাদের আর কদাচও উচিত নহে।

আমাদের প্রত্যেক কর্ম্ম ধর্ম্মের সহিত যোগ রাখিয়া করিতে সংসারযাত্রা নির্ব্বাহে কোনই ব্যাঘাত ঘটে না বরং তাহাতে আরো জোর পাওয়া যায়। "ধর্ম্ম" শব্দে আমাদের এই বোঝা উচিত যে "ধর্ম্ম" অর্থে ইসলাম (শান্তি)। এ পর্য্যন্ত আমরা যত ধর্ম্মের নামাকরণ করিতেছি, সকল ধর্ম্মের কেতাবেই শান্তিবাণী প্রচারিত আছে। কোনটার মূলে বিন্দুমাত্রও ঝগড়া নাই এবং বুঝিতে পারিলে বিভেদমাত্রও নাই, ইসলাম যোগধর্ম্ম, তাহাতে বিয়োগের উপদেশ কুত্রাপি দৃষ্ট হয় না। সাধারণতঃ আমাদের মোল্লা ও মৌলবীগণ চারি কেতাবের উল্লেখ করিয়া থাকেন, যথা—ইঞ্জিল, জবুর, তওরাত, ও ফুরকাণ। আল্লা জল্লে সানুহু তাঁহার পবিত্র বাণী কোর্‌আনে ফরমাইয়াছেন—আমি যত দেশ ও যত ভাষাভাষী সৃষ্টি করিয়াছি, প্রত্যেক দেশ ও ভাষাভাষীদের মধ্যে ঐ ঐ দেশের ভাষাভাষী পয়গম্বর (বা অবতার) গ্রহণ করিয়া ঐ ঐ ভাষায় তাহাদের জন্য আদেশ-উপদেশ প্রেরণ করিয়াছি। আয়েত: "অমা আরছাল্‌না বে রসুলিম ইল্লা বেলে ছানে কউমেহি।" অর্থাৎ আমি কোন পয়গম্বরকে পৃথিবীতে পাঠাই নাই, যাহাকে তাহার মাতৃভাষায় ধর্ম্মগ্রন্থ অবতীর্ণ করি নাই। প্রমাণস্বরূপ আমি এই দেখিতে পাইতেছি যে, হজরত রসুলে করিম মোহাম্মদ মোস্তফা (দঃ) জন্মের ৮ হাজার বৎসর পূর্ব্বে বেদের এক সংখ্যা উপনিষদ্, যাহাকে আল্লোপনিষদ বলে, তাহাতে পরিষ্কার লিখিত রহিয়াছে যে মহম্মদ নামে অবতার অতঃপর আসিতেছেন, যাহার বাণী হইবে—লাএলাহা ইল্লাল্লা মোহাম্মাদুর রসুলুল্লা। অর্থাৎ আল্লা বিনে কেহ উপাস্য নাই, মোহাম্মদ তাঁহার প্রেরিত রসুল (অবতার)। সুতরাং এই হাউসের হিন্দু-মুসলমান, বৌদ্ধ-খৃষ্টান সকলেই আমরা একই আল্লার উপাসক এবং একমাত্র তাঁহারই শান্তি-বাণীর কেতাব ধারণ করিয়া অন্য সকল সৃষ্ট জীব হইতে শ্রেষ্ঠত্ব লাভ করিয়াছি, কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় যে আমরা সকলেই সেই বাণীসমূহের মর্ম্মার্থ বুঝিয়া জাতিগঠন করিতে অক্ষম হইয়া পথভ্রষ্ট অন্ধের মত নানাদিকে নানাভাবে ছুটিতেছি, এবং এক কেতাবওয়ালা অন্য কেতাবওয়ালা-দের সঙ্গে ঝগড়ায় লিপ্ত হইয়াছি, একে অন্যের রক্তলোলুপ হইয়া পৃথিবীময় মহা অমঙ্গলকর রক্তপাত ঘটাইয়াছি ও ঘটাইতেছি। হায়, কবে আমাদের জ্ঞানচক্ষু উন্মীলিত হইবে জানি না। আমরা বাংলার মঙ্গল কামনায় আজ যে বেঙ্গল এসেমব্লিতে সভ্য হইয়া আসিয়াছি সেই বাংলা চতুর্দ্দিক হইতেই আজ প্রবল শত্রু দ্বারা আক্রান্ত, এখনো কি আমরা ঝগড়াতেই লিপ্ত থাকিব? তাহাই কি আমাদের শান্তির বাণী? মহা কেতাবের উপদেশ? কখনই নহে। আজ এই মহা বিপদের সময় আসুন আমরা জাতিসমূহের সকলে ভাই ভাইরূপে অন্তরের সহিত মিলিত হইয়া ঝগড়ার গোড়া মিনিষ্টী ভাঙ্গিয়া দিয়া সকলে একপ্রাণে তাহা নূতন করিয়া গড়িয়া তুলি

ও জাতিগঠনে সক্ষম হওয়ার চেষ্টা করি এবং আমাদের প্রিয় জন্মভূমি বাংলাকে শত্রুর দৃঢ় মুষ্টি হইতে আমাদের মিলিত বজ্রমুষ্টিদ্বারা উদ্ধার করি। (Hear, hear.) যদি এখনো আমরা সেই চেষ্টা না করি তবে আমরা বেইমান। যেহেতু হাদিছ—হুব্বুল অতন ও মিলাল ইমান, অর্থাৎ জন্মভূমির জন্য মহব্বতই ইমান—জননী জন্মভূমিশ্চ স্বর্গাদপি গরীয়সী, অর্থাৎ জননী এবং জন্মভূমি স্বর্গ হইতেও শ্রেষ্ঠ। মিনিষ্টার গদি লইয়া যাঁহারা স্বগর্বে ধরাকে সরা জ্ঞান করিতেছেন, তাঁহাদিগকেও আমি একইভাবে মিলনের আহ্বান জানাইতেছি; এবং এই আহ্বানে যদি তাঁহারা কর্ণপাত না করেন, দেশের এই মুমূর্ষু অবস্থায়ও যদি ঝগড়াঝাটি বাদ দিয়া সবাই মিলিয়া সুন্দরভাবে দেশের কার্য্যে না লাগিতে পারেন,—অচিরাৎ এই মিথ্যার সৌধ ভাঙ্গিয়া পড়িবে, ইন্‌সাআল্লা আজ হইতেই তাহার সূত্রপাত হইবে। (ইন্নাল্লাহা আলা কুল্লে সায়ইন কাদির) অর্থাৎ আল্লাহতায়ালা সমস্ত বিষয়েই কুদরত রাখেন।

দুঃখের সহিত বলিতে হইতেছে যে, মোসলেম লীগ বঙ্গভঙ্গ কায়েম রাখার জন্য বিলাতের পার্লামেণ্ট হইতে ইং ১৯০৫ সনে উদ্ভব হইয়া মাননীয় আগা খাঁ সাহেবকে ভারতের প্রেসিডেণ্ট ও মাননীয় মরহুম স্যার নবাব খাজা ছলিমুল্লা বাহাদুরকে বাংলা প্রতিন্সের প্রেসিডেণ্ট করিয়া এক ভয়ানক ঝগড়ার সৃষ্টি হইয়াছিল, ও দিল্লী দরবারে যাহা কৃতকার্য্যতায় অপারগ হইয়াছিল সেই মুরদা মুসলিম লীগকে স্যার নাজিমদের প্ররোচনায় মিঃ জিন্নাকে বাংলায় আনিয়া অতি সমারোহের সহিত অলইণ্ডিয়া মোসলেম লীগের প্রেসিডেণ্টরূপে গদিতে বসান হইল, তাহার গোড়ায় ছিলেন—মাননীয় মিঃ ফজলুল হক। তখনও এই ক্ষুদ্র জীব তাঁহাকে বলিয়াছিল—"এই আপনাকে পকেটে পুরিয়া পাটুয়াখালির দাদ মিটাইবার পূর্ণ আয়োজন হইল।" তখন তিনি উহা হাসিয়া উড়াইয়াছিলেন (laughter)। ইহার ফল তিনি তখনই হাতে হাতে পাইলেনই, পক্ষান্তরে বাংলার সমস্ত নরনারী তাহার বিষময় ফল ভোগ করিয়াছে ও করিতেছে। ঘটনাচক্রে মাননীয় মিঃ ফজলুল হক সাহেবকে খোদার মেহেরবাণীতে চৈতন্য দেওয়া হইল (আল্লাহতায়ালা তুমি তাঁহাকে ক্ষমা কর—আমরা এই প্রার্থনা করিতেছি)।

তথাকথিত লীগ প্রেসিডেণ্ট মোসলেম জগৎকে যে আশার বাণী শুনাইয়াছিলেন—পূর্ণ স্বাধীনতা, পাকিস্থান ইত্যাদি, তাহাতে অকৃতকার্য্য হইয়া সুর বদলাইয়া অতি নিম্নস্তরে আসিয়া পড়িয়াছেন। প্রাতঃস্মরণীয় মরহুম নবাব বাহাদুর যে পরাজয়ের শোকে আস্তে আস্তে হার্ট ফেইল করিয়া তাঁহার মহাজীবন পাত করিয়াছিলেন, বর্ত্তমান লীগ লীডার ঐরূপ বিবেকসম্পন্ন হইলে তাঁহারও সেই অবস্থায় উপনীত হওয়াই সম্ভবপর বলিয়া বোধ করাটা অন্যায় বলিয়া এ অধম বিবেচনা করে না। হাদিছে আছে আস্‌সাহ জিল্লুল্লাহ্ অর্থাৎ বাদশাগণে আল্লার ছায়া বিদ্যমান। সেই ছায়া কি? তাহা ক্রাউন। আজ আমাদের সম্রাটের ক্রাউন বিপন্ন। চতুর্দ্দিক্ হইতে উহা টানিয়া নিবার উদ্যোগ ঘনীভূত। বিশেষ করিয়া এই বাংলার চতুর্দ্দিকেই বেশী আক্রমণ। দুরদৃষ্ট আমাদের যে আমাদের সম্রাটের প্রতিনিধিগণের ও আমাদের মধ্যে বিশ্বাসের লেশমাত্রও নেই। যদি তাহা থাকিত তবে এই দেশ হইতে বহু বীর সন্তান যুদ্ধবিদ্যায় শিক্ষিত হইয়া দেশকে শত্রুর কবল হইতে রক্ষার চেষ্টায় ব্রতী থাকিত, কিন্তু তাহা নাই বলিয়া আজ বিদেশ হইতে বন্ধু সাজাইয়া সহায়করূপে আনা হইয়াছে। খোদা না করুন ঐ তথাকথিত বন্ধুরাই যেন আবার "ক্রাউন" লইয়া আবার না টানাটানি আরম্ভ করিয়া দেন। (Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: কিছুই আশ্চর্য্য নয়।) এ অধম জায়গীরদারের বংশোদ্ভূত। কাজেই ক্রাউনের প্রতি ভক্তি আমাদের স্বাভাবিক। এই ক্রাউনের সম্মান বজায় রাখিতে আমি আজন্ম শিক্ষিত। তাহার নিদর্শনস্বরূপে কুমিল্লায় নবাব স্যার খাজা ছলিমুল্লা সাহেবের পদার্পণসময়ে এ অধম বিনা অস্ত্রে শত্রুর বন্দুকের সামনে বুক পাতিয়া দিয়াছিল, তাহার সাক্ষী গভর্ণমেণ্টের রিটার্ণ্ড

আই, জি, আর, খানবাহাদুর মৌলবী সামসুদ্দিন আহাম্মদ সাহেব। (কলিকাতাতেই তিনি বাস করিতেছেন।)

বর্ত্তমানে বাংলার এই সমূহ দুর্দ্দিনে কোথায় আমাদের লীগ লীডার? তাঁহার কি একবার আসিয়া তাঁহার নিরীহ ভক্তবৃন্দকে দেখিয়া যাওয়া এবং কিংকর্ত্তব্য বাৎলানের এখনো সময় হয় নাই? আজিকার কাগজেই দেখিলাম শত্রুকুল মণিপুর পর্য্যন্ত আসিয়া পড়িয়াছে। এখনো কি আমাদের ইউরোপীয়ান ভাইদের মাইনরিটি পার্টিকে সমর্থন করিয়া আপনারা ক্রাউন ভক্তদের উৎপীড়ন করিতে থাকিবেন? আমি এটা বিশ্বাস করিতে পারি না। এখনো যদি সকলে মিলিয়া দেশের মঙ্গল চিন্তা করিতে প্রস্তুত না হন, তবে নিশ্চয় জানিবেন সর্ব্ব শক্তিমান্ আল্লা আমাদিগকে রক্ষা করিবার জন্য প্রস্তুত হইয়া আছেন এবং একমাত্র তিনিই আমাদের রক্ষা করিবেন। এই অভয়বাণী আমি ইমানের সহিত আপনাদের সাক্ষাতে পেশ করিতে আদিষ্ট হইয়াছি। (Mr. ABDULLA AL-MAHMOOD: আদেশটা কার? খুলেই বলন না।)

আমার যুবক বন্ধু সৈয়দ বদরুদ্দুজার মত আমার ভাষায় রক্তস্ফুলিঙ্গ প্রবাহিত হয় না, বটে—বয়সের দোষে স্বভাবতঃ রক্তই আমার কমিয়া গিয়াছে; কিন্তু চিন্তা করিলে তাহাতে বিদ্যুৎ স্ফুরণ দেখিতে পাইবেন।

যদা যদা হি ধর্ম্মস্য গ্লানির্ভবতি ভারত,
অভ্যুত্থানমধর্ম্মস্য তদাত্মানং সৃজাম্যহম্।
পরিত্রাণায় সাধনাং বিনাশায় চ দুষ্কৃতাং
ধর্ম্মসংস্থাপনার্থায় সম্ভবামি যুগে যুগে॥

(Mr. ABDULLA AL-MAHMOOD: এতক্ষণে স্পষ্টই বোঝা যাচ্ছে কারসাজীটা!)

এই শক্তি বঙ্গে অবতীর্ণ হইয়াছে, কেহ বিশ্বাস করুন বা না করুন তাহাতে কাহার কিছু আসিয়া যাইবে না। ৬।৭ মাসের মধ্যেই জগৎ তাহা দেখিতে ও বুঝিতে পারিবে।

উপসংহারে আমার একটি অত্যন্ত মর্ম্মান্তিক যাতনা প্রকাশ না করিয়া পারিতেছি না। তাহা এই—যিনি স্বাধীন বঙ্গের ও সম্বলের গ্রন্থকার তাঁহার সেই স্বাধীন বঙ্গ ও সম্বলকে কি চিরতরে কম্বল দিয়া শেষকালে তার কাফন করিলেন? কাফন করিয়াছেন বটে, কিন্তু তাহাকে যে একেবারে দাফন করিয়াছেন ইহা আমার বিশ্বাস করিতেও হৃদয় ফাটিয়া যায়। এখন আসুন, সকলে সমস্বরে বলুন—আল্লাহ আকবর—The God is Great—তাঁহাকেই আমরা আত্মসমর্পণ করিলাম। একমাত্র তিনি আমাদের দেশ, তৎক্রাউন ও আমাদের রক্ষা করিবেন।

স্পীকার মহোদয় লালবাতি দেখানোর আশঙ্কায় অতি সংক্ষেপে এই নিবেদন করার পর অদ্যকার মত ইতি করিলাম। আমিন।

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 8 p.m. till 4-45 p.m. on Friday, the 24th March, 1944, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 24th March, 1944, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 13 Hon'ble Ministers and 212 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Curtailment of certain privileges of security prisoners.

*188. **Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that—

(*i*) the political security prisoners hailing from the district of Midnapore and arrested since August, 1942, lodged in Midnapore, Presidency and other Jails have been deprived of their usual right of interviews with their family member and relatives by an order of the Government, No. 6936H.J., dated the 5th November, 1942, or by any other order or orders; and

(*ii*) the security prisoners' right of receiving and replying to letters has, in majority of the aforesaid prisoners' cases, been curtailed to one and one respectively in place of eight and four?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a copy of the order or orders curtailing the above facilities along with a copy of Security Prisoners Rules, 1940, corrected up to date, if any?

(*c*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister been drawn to the answer to starred question No. 154, clause (*c*), as reported in Volume XLIV—3, page 270 of the Assembly Proceedings, regarding the withdrawal of the order?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what decisions, if any, have since been reached by him in the matter?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) and (*c*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*d*) A copy of the Bengal Security Prisoners Rules is placed in the Library. The orders curtailing the facilities referred to have since been withdrawn.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the reason for curtailing the facilities referred to in the question?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It is not in the public interest to disclose the reasons.

Voluntary suffering undergone by certain security prisoners of Presidency Jail.

*189. **Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA-MAZUMDAR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware that Sj. Satin Sen and several other security prisoners in the Presidency Jail have been undergoing voluntary sufferings?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the nature of such sufferings; and

(*ii*) the reasons thereof?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Sj. Sen and other leaders of the security prisoners have addressed several petitions, applications or letters to the authorities concerned including the Hon'ble the Chief Minister himself complaining about the grievances of the security prisoners in the jail?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased—

(*i*) to state whether any action has been taken on those representations; and

(*ii*) to lay on the Table copies of the following correspondences:—

(1) Letters dated the 12th November, 1942, and 20th November, 1942, addressed to the Superintendent of Jail by Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu, M.L.A., as representative of the security prisoners in the Presidency Jail;

(2) letter dated the 24th December, 1942, addressed to the Jail Superintendent;

(3) letter dated the 7th January, 1943, addressed to the Jail Superintendent by Sj. Panchanan Bose;

(4) letters dated the 17th January and 25th January, 1943, addressed to the Jail Superintendent by Sj. Satin Sen;

(5) letter dated the 27th January, 1943, addressed to Deputy Commissioner, Special Branch;

(6) letter dated the 27th January, 1943, addressed to Additional Secretary, Home Department;

(7) letter dated the 27th January, 1943, addressed to Hon'ble Chief Minister; and

(8) letter dated the 28th January, 1943, addressed to Additional Secretary, Home Department?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the present Deputy Secretary, Home (Jails) Department, has informed the Jail authorities his inability to hold an enquiry unless he is directed by the Hon'ble Minister to do so?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) and (*b*) Messrs. Satin Sen and two other security prisoners of the Presidency Jail undertook a "limited" fasting in February, 1943, in sympathy with Mr. Gandhi's fast that was going on at the time.

(*c*) and (*d*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) No.

(*e*) No: He only informed the security prisoners that he would gladly accompany the Hon'ble Chief Minister to the Jail to hear their grievances if directed by the latter to do so.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (*e*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Deputy Secretary according to the promise given by him to the security prisoner informed the Hon'ble Home Minister about this?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*e*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government gave the Deputy Secretary, Home (Jails) Department, an opportunity to accompany the Hon'ble Chief Minister to the jail to hear the prisoner in question?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That was not considered necessary.

Non-availability of tickets at some railway stations of Bengal and Assam Railway.

***190. Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI:** (*a*)Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware of the inconvenience of the public travelling on the Bengal and Assam Railway due to non-availability of tickets for their destinations?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of drawing the attention of the Railway authorities in the matter?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prosanna Pain:) (*a*) Owing to occasional extraordinary pressure of passenger traffic the demand for tickets sometimes become so heavy as to cause a temporary shortage of printed tickets for a particular station. In such cases, Excess Fare Ticket forms are used as equivalent of ordinary tickets, and passengers do not have any great difficulty in getting themselves booked

(*b*) The Railway Administration will be prepared to take steps to put matters right if specific instances with names of stations where such alternative facility for booking was denied are furnished to them.

The Railway authorities are also being moved to ensure adequate supply of tickets to all stations, as far as practicable in the present state of paper shortage

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the shortage of tickets does not encourage corruption amongst the staff, because the T.T.I., in conspiracy with the guard generally allows passengers to go only on cash payment?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Why, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of opinion.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: It is a question of fact. What I want to know is whether Government is aware that these things encourage corruption among the staff?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: No such case has been brought to the notice of Government.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in connection with every outgoing train at Sealdah intending passengers cannot get tickets unless they pay something extra at the counter?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Government is not aware.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is aware that even when passengers get tickets they cannot enter the platforms of the Sealdah Station unless they pay extra at the gates?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise, because it refers to difficulties in getting into trains.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: With the question of non-availability of tickets this question is connected.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not connected.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government have already moved the railway authorities to ensure adequate supply of tickets?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Government on receipt of this question have already moved the railway authorities and the railway authorities are taking action in the matter.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the machinery for receiving such complaints for the redress of grievances?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Either the honourable member may send a petition to the railway authorities or the Government of Bengal in the Communications and Works Department.

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that sometimes many more tickets are issued than is warranted by accommodation in the train?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Grant of family allowance to Babu Prafulla Chandra Ghosh.

91. Mr. JNANENDRA CHANDRA MAJUMDAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether—

(*i*) security prisoner Babu Prafulla Chandra Ghosh, at present detained in the Buxa Special Reserve Jail, has sent several petitions to the Government praying for the grant of family allowance;

(*ii*) the said Prafulla Babu was an earning member of his family; and

(*iii*) his old mother and his other family members have been deprived of the benefits of his earnings?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of granting him a family allowance?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (a) (i) Yes.

(ii) He was not earning anything at the time of arrest as he was then a restrictee.

(iii) Not by present detention.

(b) Several petitions were received from the prisoner for family allowance but they were rejected on the ground that the prisoner was for a considerable period before his arrest, without any income. The case has been reviewed this year in the light of our present policy and an allowance of Rs.30 per month from the 3rd May, 1942 (date of arrest), to 31st March, 1943, and Rs.45 per month from the 1st April, 1943, has been granted to the mother of the prisoner.

(c) Does not arise.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this petition has been rejected, and if so, by which Government?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The case was rejected by the previous Ministry. After this Ministry came into office, due to the adoption of its liberal policy the allowance was sanctioned from the 3rd of May, 1942, at the rate of Rs. 30 per month and it has been enhanced to Rs. 45 per month from 1st April, 1943.

Food Committees.

92. Khan Bahadur A. M. L. RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(a) how many Food Committees have been formed up to 30th June, 1943, throughout the Province; and

(b) the principle on which the personnel of these committees have been selected?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (a) About a lakh.

(b) The villagers themselves were to elect 12 members irrespective of class, community or party for their food committees. The members were to be honest, reliable, sincere and public-spirited.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (b), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that only people of a particular political persuasion have been elected to these food committees?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: No, Sir.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the territorial basis is observed in the formation of these committees?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: Each district has got a committee and the territorial basis is observed in the formation of that committee.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: With reference to the answer just now given, am I to understand from the answer that there have been 26 committees formed for 26 districts?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: No, more than 26 committees.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: What is the unit of these committees?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: I want notice.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Sarker, your question is not quite clear.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the jurisdiction of each committee?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: Each union has got a food committee.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that there are complaints with regard to the formation of these committees, in most of which there has been no representation of the minority communities?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: No complaint has ever been received.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that these food committees are not functioning but are rather dead?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: Government is informed that these committees are functioning.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the machinery for reporting to the Government the working of these committees?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: The District Officer.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the members of these committees are elected or nominated?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: Sir, the answer is there: 12 members are elected.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the local Executive Officer has any influence on these committees?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: Government have no information.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that many members of this House made complaints that these committees were not properly represented by the minority communities?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: Some complaints were received, and the Hon'ble Minister is looking into the matter.

Srijut MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the election has got to be approved by the District Magistrate?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: Usually it is approved by the District Magistrate?

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who were the convenors of those meetings for getting the 12 members eelcted as in the answer (*b*)?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: I want notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that most of these committees have not been constituted by election but by nomination of circle officers concerned?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: As far as Government is aware most of these committees have been elected.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: What steps Government have taken to rectify those defects which were brought to their notice in the complaints made?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: Instructions have been issued by the Government to the local officers.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: From the answer just given by the honourable member do I understand him to say that some committees at least have been constituted not by election but by nomination.

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: The committees have been constituted by election.

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that many district committees have been formed by subdivisional or other subordinate committees without election?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: I want notice.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the President of this committee is elected or nominated?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the scheme before the food committees?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Was there more than one food committee in each village?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: No.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: How many villages in Bengal are there?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: I want notice.

Mr. SPEAKER: Questions over.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

63—Extraordinary Charges.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Siddiqi, you are to speak now on the demand under 63—Extraordinary Charges.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, if I stand up to speak at this stage I get no chance to reply to the arguments to be advanced by the Opposition. With your permission I shall speak later.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. We would respectfully request you to find out whether Mr. Siddiqi wants to speak or not and also whether he loses his chance if he now refuses to speak. Otherwise, we shall not be prepared to have the programme changed—the programme which was determined in consultation with the Government Chief Whip.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, the learned doctor uses his words rather carelessly. I was told by him that Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu, would speak first but I have been called upon to speak now. I do not mean any disrespect to you, Sir, for that would be an indignity to the Chair but what I was saying was that I would prefer to speak later.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right. Mr. Jalan.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, Mr. Jalan will speak after Mr. Siddiqi.

Mr. SPEAKER: The whole difficulty has arisen on account of some arrangement made previously; otherwise, this difficulty would not have arisen.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, I shall speak.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in spite of not being prepared to speak at this stage I am willing to obey your command in its entirety. I think I shall not be wrong in trying to explain to honourable gentlemen opposite that going over and over again the same rambling arguments by speakers opposite does not convince people about the rectitude of the cause they pretend to present before the House. An honourable member, one of the top men, spoke of humour and that he had been misunderstood. Humour all of us can enjoy, but humour with a sting in it and based on vulgarity does go out of the sphere of humour.

An argument was made, Sir, about the quality of foodgrains supplied to our province. The answer to that does not lie with the Government here, but if I am permitted, I would like to refer honourable members opposite to certain Commissioners of certain divisions in the Central Provinces and the Chief Secretary whose authority was mentioned in this House. Orissa and also other parts of the country did not play the game by us.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. Mr. Siddiqi always rebukes us for referring to any official of this province, but is it permissible for an honourable member from the Government side to try to lay blame on a public servant of another province who is neither here nor there and who is not in a position to defend himself?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: An officer in the other province who is neither here nor there would not have attracted my attention, but

this argument coming from the doctor who seldom spares even the chaprassis——

Mr. SPEAKER: I think some reference was made to this thing and you are only replying to that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I do not believe in that kind of morality.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think some reference was made to the Central Provinces.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Not to the Chief Secretary of Orissa.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: The Chief Secretary of the Central Provinces of India on whose statement honourable members depended for a good deal of their false case.

Sir, corruption seems to be a word that gives zest to the speakers and they feel that it gives a status to the arguments they bring forward. If we were to believe every word that has been uttered and is likely to be uttered, we must come to the conclusion, Mr. Speaker, that we are a nation of bribe-takers and bribe-givers—we have no other qualities. But I do not believe in it and, as the Hon'ble Minister for the Administration of Justice said a few years ago in this House, for every bribe there must be two parties. If Government servants take bribes, then members of the civilian population give bribes. The responsibiilty for our troubles in Bengal, Sir——

(At this stage the blue light was lit.)

Sir, I have hardly begun.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have allotted six minutes for you.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, I was disturbed and I should be given more time.

Sir, the responsibility for our troubles lies entirely and completely with the Opposition. Not finding anything substantial to put up a good case, they have been indulging in the creation of an atmosphere of suspicion and distrust and using influence in almost every part of India to create troubles here. They have not yet realised that the creation of this suspicion and distrust has interfered with the flow of foodgrains into this province. Could we, even at this, almost the eleventh hour, when our troubles have come to an end, appeal to them to come out in a friendly way and help us in the rehabilitation of the province?

The question of foodgrains in Bengal is dependent, Sir, on transportation and, more than that, on a general responsive attitude in the public. Gentlemen opposite have tried to disturb that responsiveness which should have been the right of any Government in these dire days, but they are satisfied, as we are, that things are going on very well, that things have been done in a manner which they could not do and it will be wiser on their part to keep quiet and let us carry on with the good work.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the extraordinary situation through which we are passing in this province it is only natural that there should be a heavy demand under the head "Extraordinary

Charges". Our criticism is not that there should be any extraordinary charges at all or that there should be some increase in those charges as disclosed in the present budget, although we do not like and cannot support such an enormous increase in expenditure under that head. We are not so unrealistic in our ideology as not to comprehend the supreme necessity of taking the most effective and far-reaching steps to secure a quiet, contented and peaceful home front. The extraordinary charges are entirely devoted to such a purpose. The Provincial Government is entrusted with that duty, the Provincial Ministry in office is charged with that responsibility. If it fails to achieve that end, it fails as a wartime ministry.

Let us apply, Sir, for a moment that test to the two-wartime ministries in this province. Within a week of the outbreak of the war in Asia the last ministry came into office. I would not put forward one single boastful claim on its behalf. My estimate of its wartime achievement will be measured, modest and moderate. Would it be an exaggeration to say, may I ask, that the special war-time departments of the Bengal Government covered by these extraordinary charges were built up—literally built up—during the regime of the previous ministry? The military and civil defence of the province became the overwhelming responsibility of the Government after the fall of Malaya and Burma. Military defence was the charge of the British Government and the Government of India. Civil defence was the charge of the Provincial Government. Look at the civil defence organisation of this great and premier city of India as also the organisation in other vulnerable towns in this province. The entire structure was built up from its very foundation in the course of a few months and it gave an excellent account of itself when it was first put to the ordeal of fire. Other war-time measures had also to be introduced necessitated by military strategy. Execution of those unpopular measures fell upon the Provincial Government. They put forth their best endeavour in minimising the inevitable hardship caused by such measures by elaborate provision of large-scale compensation. They succeeded to some extent in taking off the edge of the denial of transport and the requisition and evacuation of property. Their main task was to safeguard the interests of the civilian population while according full satisfaction to military needs. They were also called upon to bear the brunt of the flow of evacuees from Burma in co-operation with the magnificent non-official efforts in this city and outside. During and after the first air-raids it was their duty and concern to keep up civilian morale and supply of essential commodities.

Sir, I do not desire to dilate further on that aspect of the question. These are just the bare details of the efforts and achievements of the last ministry on the home front. Those were some of their outstanding problem.

The present ministry was called upon to tackle the biggest famine problem in the history of this province.

Unlike the last ministry and counter to the declaration which the last ministry had made, the present ministry took office with the suicidal declaration that there was no shortage of food in Bengal. They were soon faced with an unprecedented crisis—mass starvation, famine, pestilence and death. Their handling of that situation had come up for discussion in this House during the last session more than once. I do not desire to go into

that matter again. It has been said in their defence particularly by my honourable friend the Leader of the European Party that the present ministry has applied their mind to the problem. What a back-handed compliment to a responsible ministry called upon to deal with an unparalleled crisis! Indeed they have applied their mind! Did they? Who did not in this unfortunate province? Could your mind be diverted for one single moment during night and day month after month from the problem? Could the sights and sounds all around you ever allow you not to apply your mind to the problem? Praise this ministry by all means but do not damn them with such faint phrase as the Leader of the European Party has chosen to do. Sir, that was the sum total of their achievements in the Home front on the major issue that confronted them. The Home front can be built up only on the broad and solid foundation of the confidence of the people. I ask this ministry not to measure that confidence by the bloc of European votes which has kept them in office. The matter is far more serious and far more fundamental than that. They may carry the budget, they may defeat the cut motions, they may fritter away crores and crores of the tax-payer's money. They may wield the power which office has placed in their hands. But let them remember that power without prestige is a poor prop to keep up the morale and confidence of a sullen, discontented and resentful people.

Mr. I. D. JALAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I generally support the cut motions which have been moved in this House yesterday on this subject, viz., "Extraordinary Charges" which is one of the most important items in the budget. This item has risen from seven lakhs of rupees in 1940-41 to 8 crores 50 thousand rupees in 1944-45. In spite of this huge expenditure what do we find in this province today as the achievements of the present ministry which is holding office in this province? It was under the regime of this ministry that several lakhs of the children of the soil lost their lives due to starvation. It was not due to the action of the last ministry or during the regime of the last ministry that so many lives were lost. We are not holders of any brief for the last ministry for the present one. We have criticised the actions of both the last ministry as well as the present one whenever we have thought it fit to criticise. But what do we find today? Government is failing in its primary responsibility of feeding the people of this province at a time when the war is not actually in this country, i.e., when the country is at peace. What will be the situation if and when the country will be actually invaded I shudder to think. At present we find that the activities on the Indo-Burma front are increasing and we do not know as to what the situation of this country will be when there will be the utmost strain on the transport system of this country in order to carry troops and materials to the frontier. If this was the achievement of the present ministry in tackling the food situation of this province, how can the people believe with confidence that this ministry will be able to tackle the future problems of this country?

So far as cloth problem is concerned, we find that it is a very serious problem which will become all the more serious as time passes on. It is a matter of common knowledge that there is a great scarcity of cloth in

Bengal, partly due to the transport difficulties and partly due to the action of this Government as well as the Central Textile Board. The Government issued the Cloth and Yarn Control Order in June, 1943, and prescribed a time-limit to dispose of the stock existing on the 31st July, 1943, within three months when the stock was found to be admittedly of 8 months' consumption. That in itself was a preposterous position. Then the Government extended the time for its disposal till 31st December, 1943, but the stock could not be disposed of and then what the Government did was that they sealed the entire stock of such cloth of this country including this province. Three months have lapsed and the stock is lying idle sealed up. Why? Because Government has not got adequate machinery to stamp these goods with the prices at which they can be sold. There are 1,200 to 1,300 applications from dealers in Calcutta who want their goods to be stamped, but only about 150 to 200 persons' goods have been stamped so far. The reasons are obvious. Why do the Government allow the entire stock of cloth to be frozen for three months—from 1st January to 31st March? We do not know whether three months more will not be required to release that frozen stock. I say that the Government has bungled in a very important problem. Why did it fix a time-limit to dispose of the stock within three or five months when the Government is not in a position to stamp those goods even for six months to come. I say, Sir, that the duty of the Bengal Government is to move the Central Textile Board and the Government of India to release so far as the stock of cloth of Bengal is concerned and unless that is done, I tell you, and that is the verdict of the people who know that there will be scarcity of cloth in Bengal on an unprecedented scale. Perhaps the members do not know that if we cross the frontier of Bengal and send piecegoods to Assam, you will find that there is a great demand and piecegoods can be sold at three times higher price at which they can be sold here. There is export from Assam to China. Piecegoods which are being sold at Rs. 2 per lb. in Calcutta can be sold at Rs. 10 to Rs. 11 in China. Things are going on in this way.

Now, Sir, the Bengal Government has promulgated the Bengal Cloth and Yarn Control Order. There is an arbitrary provision that the Textile Controller of Bengal will be entitled to cancel the licence of any trader without assigning any reason, without telling him why his licence has been cancelled, and without asking the dealer to show cause, and without calling upon the licencee to explain his conduct. Such an arbitrary rule could not be found even in Czarist Russia. On a certain day the ministry cancelled the licences of at least 30 to 40 dealers who were the biggest dealers in this city and withheld the licences of about 100 persons from being issued without assigning any reason and without calling upon them to show cause. Why this arbitrary power is being taken up by this Government? Cannot the dealers be entitled to know what the reason is and show cause why the licence should not be cancelled. Such arbitrary powers are taken by this Government and then applied most mercilessly and most arbitrarily. This is not the way to deal with the problem. You cannot deal with the problem unless you get the co-operation of the people who deal in such commodities. That is one aspect of the case to which I wish to draw the attention of Government.

So far as the food supply is concerned there is no doubt that a certain amount of convenience has taken place on account of the rationing scheme which has come into force in Calcutta, but still we find people who are not able to register their cards. What is the use of issuing cards when they cannot get their cards registered? I have got a letter (dated 21st March, 1943) from the Marwari Relief Society to the Controller of Rationing in which they have stated this fact and they have drawn the attention of the Controller of Rationing to the necessity that there must be proper arrangement for the registration of cards. The next thing to which I desire to draw your attention to is this that so far as *atta* is concerned the supply is of a very inferior quality. It is mixed up with all kinds of things. When the Government has taken upon its shoulders the responsibility of feeding the people which was ordinarily borne by the traders of this country, and when the Government has caused even unemployment among a large number of grocers who were earning their livelihood in this city does it behove the Government who poses to be the repository of all confidence to betray the confidence in this manner and not supply proper articles of food? There is a proverb in Hindi—

Andher Nagri Chaupat Raja.
Taka Ser Bhaja Taka Ser Khaja;

that is when sweets are sold at the rate of one pice per seer, and *bhajas* also are sold at the rate of one pice per seer. That is a thing which happens when the raja is a *chaupat* (idiot) and then anarchy in the city. That is what is happening now. You can sometimes get Dehra Dun rice even at 6 annas per seer and the worst rice also at 6 annas per seer. When the Government takes upon its shoulders the responsibility of supplying eatables on which the life depends it has got its duty by the people to see that proper quality of rice, proper quality of food materials are supplied. I see that the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Supplies is laughing. He was laughing when lakhs of people were dying in the province. He is still laughing and he will laugh till the last. His laugh cannot solve the problem. The problem is there.

Then Sir, the difficulty is in certain areas that where people want wheat instead of *atta* that is not supplied. There are people who grind wheat at their own houses in order to have pure *atta*. To them wheat is not supplied and they are therefore forced to take that *atta* which is uneatable and which is very inferior in quality. This is not all. There is the difficulty of coal, there is the difficulty of salt. My clerk told me yesterday and today that he was not getting any coal and therefore no food could be prepared in his house. Another person told me today that yesterday night while *dal* was being boiled there was no salt in his house and he had to roam about for nearly 3 miles in Calcutta in order to get a seer of salt. This is the position in the premier city of the British Empire where there is the entire concentration of Government forces. You cannot get coal, salt, cloth, sugar and you cannot get proper food. What is the position regarding milk? Thousands of children are dying for want of milk which cannot be had for less than one rupee per seer. When this Government has not yet come forward with proposals to solve the milk problem and tackle the cattle problem, can it be said that it is discharging its duty properly? For the

sake of beef-eaters who must have their beef at any cost, hundreds and thousands of children are dying for want of milk and thousands of people are dying on account of mal-nutrition and the health of the future generation is imperilled. Is that a proper solution of the problem? Can we say that the Government is discharging its primary function with which it is charged to justify its existence? If these things are wanting, what justification is there for my friends of the European Party to sing halleluja to this ministry? I find nothing. On the contrary, I find that the huge expenditure which has been going on may be unjustified—may be justified I cannot say unless investigation is made—but the results so far achieved are not satisfactory.

So far as Civil Supplies are concerned, I know personally of a case in which a consignment came in October. That was ordered to be delivered to the party. When the party went to take delivery, the stockist said "I have taken delivery from the railway 10 bags short; I will give you 50 bags short, but you must give me a clear discharge". When the party returned without giving a clear discharge, I approached the Additional Director of Civil Supplies and told him "This is most unfair; either you give him a short supply certificate from the railway or you must give the proper number of bags". The Additional Director of Civil Supplies was pleased to order that this should be done, of course, after one month's negotiation. Finally when the party went to take delivery of those goods it was found that the Government had requisitioned them. The stockist was angry that this matter had been mentioned to the Additional Director of Civil Supplies and he therefore managed to arrange that Government should requisition the goods. When the requisition had taken place the claim was put forward in October or November and the claim was passed after many repeated letters only in March, 1944. Is that the way in which the Ministry of Civil Supplies should go on? There is another person who gave a bill to the Ministry of Civil Supplies for payment. He was asked, because he could not satisfy certain individuals in the department, to give a bank's guarantee in order to enable the department to make the payment. A man might supply five lakhs of rupees worth of goods. Is it suggested that whenever a payment is to be made, the party should give the guarantee of a bank? That is never done. It is simply due to the vagaries of this department that these inconveniences to traders in this province are going on. Unless they are curbed, there cannot be any hope of improvement in the situation.

There is another point which I want to draw your attention to. Messrs. Surajmull Nagarmull, who are the owners of a Sugar Factory at Gopalpur, have written a letter to the Indian Chamber of Commerce, dated 14th February, 1944. I would like to draw the attention of the House to that letter which runs as follows:—

"We beg to inform you about a new danger which has been arising recently to the lives of our factory workers from the Military special trains running along the main line.

Our factory and staff colony are situated just contiguous and parallel to the Bengal and Assam Raliway main line and all trains on this

line pass alongside the mill and mill colony area for a distance of near about a mile from gumti No. 128A., on the north of Gopalpur station. It has been our constant experience for sometime past that troops and other military special trains are firing various shots while passing the factory perhaps for the sake of fun.

Sometime back a local boy was thus injured by a bullet shot and a police enquiry was held in the matter.

Yesterday morning about a dozen shots were fired at the factory area from the military special train No. 651 N-Up while it was passing the mill at about 10-45 a.m."

Now, this is the mill area where there are labourers. The military trains are passing now and again and they are firing shots at random as if the lives of Indians are worse than those of beasts in this country. Nothing is done. This Government owes a duty to the people to see that the lives of its citizens are protected. This Government is failing in its duty to do so. That is how morale is going to be kept. The other day the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy stated in the House that the Government of India had asked us to make arrangements for a production of about 45,000 tons of sugar when the production was only 15,000 tons. If that is the position how can the labourers remain in that mill area, when they find that whenever military trains are passing they are firing shots at random.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Mr. I. D. JALAN: Sir, I say that this is a problem which must engage the attention of the House as well as of the Government.

(At this stage the member resumed his seat.)

Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak this evening on the most momentous question of the day, and in doing so I want to say at the very outset that I am not a friend of the present Government nor am I an enemy of theirs. Personally I have no attachment to the Ministerialist party but my attitude is one of a person who forms his opinion by judging the various circumstances pertinent to the question. I think the question now before us is whether the present ministry has been able to deal successfully or effectively with the food problem that has been the problem of all problems in the province. But in order to come to an understanding of the problem we must have all the relevant facts before us and then to form our opinion upon those facts. There is no denying the fact that people in their thousands and tens of thousands were found dead and dying all around us when the crisis was at its height. There is no denying the fact that people in their hundreds of thousands in utter panic and distress were moving about in search of food and were lamenting in every corner of this city. There is no denying the fact that even the streets of Calcutta and of mofassil towns were strewn with corpses and dying men as a result of starvation. But is this ministry responsible for all that? Surely the Ministry or the Minister-in-charge will be responsible for this if the ministry or the minister who has been entrusted with this task has had no imagination, no capacity and no love for the people and for the country. As regards Mr. Suhrawardy it must be said that there is hardly anybody in this House who can dispute the fact that he is a

person fully competent to deal with the question. He is a person who has also got imagination. The question now is whether he has got any love for his people. Some say that he has got love for his people and others say that he has not: that is a point of dispute no doubt. But if he has no love for his people and for his country that must be evident by his actions. If his action was such that it can be said that he did nothing absolutely, when the crisis came, then he must be condemned. If, on the contrary, it can be proved that he has done his best to reduce the sufferings of the people by taking recourse to all possible methods, then, of course, we cannot lay any blame at his door. There are certain circumstances which must be taken into consideration in judging the question on its merit. It cannot be gainsaid that before the war Burma used to supply us large quantities of rice and paddy. Our province was not and still is not self-sufficient in the matter of food. But Burma fell and went over to the Japanese and we have been deprived of that rice and paddy which Burma used to give us, and it is for that reason that Bengal is faced with a serious food crisis. Not only has there been loss of supply from Burma but over and above that there has been another burden put upon us. There are a good number of refugees from Burma. Burmese and Indians have come to Bengal in thousands and are participating in the slender resources of our province. Besides that the war is knocking at our very doors and a huge army has now made its base here and is encroaching upon our scanty food resources. These are the most trying circumstances under which the ministry has had to carry on the administration. Not only that but the question of transport also stands in the way of the ministry in bringing food from other provinces and in its free movement within the province. Then, Sir, there is the constitution under which the ministers have no free hand in the administration of the province. Sir, when the constitution came before us in the form of a White Paper there were two sets of people: one of them characterised it as unworkable; the other said that it was not altogether unworkable but that it could be worked in spite of its limitations and that let it be worked for what it was worth. Sir, the inherent defects of the constitution are still there because even if the ministry wants to act according to its own wishes it cannot do so for the constitution stands in the way. Sir, the constitution, as it is, has been accepted by the nationalist groups in this House and it is being worked for what it is worth. In spite of the limitations of the constitution the present ministry and especially the minister for Civil Supplies has been able to administer the department under his charge so well that we have been getting rice at Rs. 12 per maund and therefore I cannot agree to the suggestion made that the ministry has failed utterly in its attempt in this direction.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to reply on behalf of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister to the cut motions that relate to the Home Department. Sir, Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal in his cut motion referred to the inadequate strength of the A. R. P. personnel in Calcutta. He also gave us some facts and figures. As usual Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal's facts and figures are incorrect and wrong. Sir, the sanctioned strength of the A. R. P. personnel in Calcutta Warden Service is—paid 3,775 (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I said 4,000) of which the present actual is

3,647. It will therefore appear that there is a deficiency of only 128 paid wardens, or about 3 per cent. of the paid strength. Sir, the paid strength was raised when it was found on experience that sufficient number of unpaid men could not be relied upon and it was considered that the present strength of paid men would be adequate for working purposes regardless of the number of volunteers.

Sir, Mr. B. Mukherjee in his cut motion stated that many lives lost at Hathibagan and Kidderpore could have been saved if there were adequate A. R. P. wardens. Sir, this allegation is based on the theory that the strength of wardens was inadequate but a failure in the reporting system would have been expected had his contention been correct, but from actual experience it was found that there was no failure in the reporting system and therefore his contention that the A. R. P. wardens were not adequate is not correct. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What happened when the dock area was bombed?) I am replying to that. Have some patience.

Dr. Sanyal also gave us some detailed figures about the strength of A. R. P. sub-areas in Calcutta, and again, as usual, his figures were wrong. I shall give the correct figures. In Burrabazar the sanctioned strength is 91 and the actual is 83. In Hare Street the sanctioned strength is 93, the actual is 88. In Ballygunge the sanctioned strength is 347 paid and the actual is 313. In Jorasanko the sanctioned strength is 93 paid and the actual 85 paid.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What about volunteers in Burrabazar?

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, he has replied to that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: His figures are just the same as mine so far as paid is concerned. He cannot say my figures are wrong.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already said there is some deficiency in the matter of volunteers. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Then why say wrong?) The number of members of paid strength. Dr. Sanyal also gave us some facts regarding deficiency of drivers at Beadon Street Depot. This is not also quite correct. The facts are as follows:—

Sanctioned—

(*a*) for cars—14 *plus* 25 per cent.;

(*b*) for ambulances—11 *plus* 25 per cent.;

Actuals—

(*a*) for cars—11,

(*b*) for ambulances—14.

There is thus some deficiency of car drivers.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order. I have given some figures which appear to be just the same as quoted by Mr. Mohammed Ali, and still why should he use the term "wrong"?

Mr. SPEAKER: You know the procedure very well. You can rise on a personal explanation and if the honourable member does not yield you cannot speak. It is only when he finishes you can rise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have a right to correct him.

Mr. SPEAKER: But you have no right to interrupt him while he is on his legs.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The whole question of desertion of drivers was taken up in January last and the following decisions were arrived at by Government:—

(1) Drivers of light vehicles drawing Rs. 40 would be entitled to draw the pay of heavy vehicle drivers, viz., Rs. 60 on qualifying to drive a heavy vehicle, whether in fact he was employed on a heavy vehicle or not.

(2) Some relaxation of the veto on resignation by drivers and other personnel was allowed on the discretion of the Controller.

These decisions were at first applied to Calcutta and have recently been extended to Howrah, 24-Parganas and Hooghly. After these decisions were taken by Government the position with regard to drivers has considerably eased.

Sir, the statement regarding the pay of wardens is correct. For once Dr. Sanyal was correct. It may be added however that besides the concession rate of Rs. 10 per maund of rice, other items such as *dal*, *ghee*, oil, tea and coke are also available to wardens at concession rates. Besides these, they are given free clothes and free medical attention.

Dr. Sanyal also referred to additional duties on account of rationing for which wardens have received no extra remuneration. It will be more correct to say that these duties encroached upon the normal training and duties of the wardens than to say that they were additional. The increase of pay for lady wardens was considered necessary in order to obtain women of a suitable type which was otherwise found to be impossible. Replacement of wardens who have resigned is inevitable by untrained men whose training is undertaken on appointment. It is certain that the figure of 60 per cent. of untrained men quoted by Dr. Sanyal in the warden service is greatly exaggerated. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What is the percentage there? Can you quote it?) It is nowhere near 60 per cent.

Particulars regarding the allegation by Mr. B. Mukherjee regarding the dismissal of Naren Ghosh Dastidar from Chittagong A. R. P. are not readily available to Government here. Particulars regarding Naren Roy of Barisal as well as those relating to politicals with reference to recruitment are these. Briefly the position is that volunteers are not excluded from A. R. P. service on the ground of their political affiliation, but they are recruited without reference to political or party affiliation. They are only accepted as individuals. Individual members of the public are welcome and are recruited to the A. R. P. service but not as representatives of any political or party organisation.

Before I conclude I would like to make it clear that Government have always welcomed the recruitment of unpaid volunteer wardens. The A. R. P. Controller has however been unable to get the right type of men and from his experience he is quite satisfied that with the paid personnel at his disposal he is quite competent and able to meet any emergencies and tackle any situation that might arise. Calcutta had several raids, the A. R. P. organisation rose to the occasion. They were found efficient and they were

found fit and the Controller and the Government are quite satisfied that the strength at the disposal of the Controller is quite sufficient and the Controller is quite competent to meet any emergency.

With these words, Sir, I oppose all the cut motions moved by Dr. Sanyal, Mr. Mukherjee and others relating to the Home Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so much ground has been covered by the honourable members in dealing with this motion that it will be impossible for me to reply to all the points that have been raised during the debate. I am also left wondering as to what is left for the honourable members to say when I shall move my next motion in the House on Capital Outlay, and they will move their cut motions.

I shall try, Sir, to meet some of the points which have been raised but I do not guarantee that I shall be able to speak on all of them.

Sir, I would like to try, if I may, to congratulate honourable members of this House on the level of the debate on this occasion. I have not found that acrimonious feeling which has unfortunately characterised discussions on the food situation on previous occasions. Possibly it is due to the fact that honourable members have realised that the food situation should be kept out of acrimony as far as possible or possibly they have appreciated to some extent the efforts that are being made by Government to meet the present situation. If that is not so, then I am unfortunate. I have however to deprecate the speeches of some of the honourable members that tend somewhat to undermine confidence. You must realise that confidence is essential if we have got to tide over the present situation, and it does nobody the least good to repeat what has so often been exploded, namely, that the cultivator has no confidence in the Government, that the prices are rising all over, that the policy of Government has failed and that another new famine is in sight. I would like to assure the House, and as I am really anxious for the supoprt of the Opposition, I would also like to assure the Opposition that if we work together and if actually no attempts are made on their part to undermine the confidence there is every hope and possibility that we shall pass on to the next year without facing another famine or without any great difficultly. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURY: As you were optimistic last time.)

One outstanding speech is that which has been delivered by Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu. In his speech he has tried to justify his own Ministry and placed before the House the problems which confronted it and how it dealt with them. He could not obviously resist the temptation of attacking the present Ministry and of pointing out its failures. Let me give to Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu's Ministry all the things that are its due, but I will not emulate him by attacking the old Ministry and pointing out those acts of omission and commission which accentuated the crisis which we have to deal with. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Very generous!)

Sir, I feel that I should take the House into confidence on a telegram which we have just received from the Government of India. I am extremely happy over it as it is to some extent the culmination of the very persistent efforts that I made to secure for Bengal a fairer share of some of the produce. I have, so far as it lies in my power, pressed the claims of Bengal, and I am happy to be able to announce to the House that the sugar quota of

Bengal has been increased irrespective of our own produce, (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Thank you.) that the quota of *gur* has been increased, (Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Very sweet of you) the quota of mustard oil and mustard seeds has been increased and the Government of India are going to make further efforts to increase the quota and to secure adequate movement and procurement. The Government of India have promised to send us more standard cloth, as much as we desire, and have reiterated the promise which we hope will be fulfilled, of sending 30,000 tons of salt per month. I feel, Sir, that it does to some extent give to the province of Bengal and to the Ministry and to its humble servitor, i.e., myself some cause for satisfaction.

Sir, we have been told in this House that we shall never be able to meet the food situation unless a truly national Government is established. Sir, I would very much have liked to have the co-operation of all sections of the House in the establishment of a truly national Government from the point of view of what may be considered to be truly national and not a conglomeration or an aggregate of particles with nothing in common, that are always trying to work in defferent ways, and only get together for a temporary purpose (laughter), but a government composed of those who understand each other, and are prepared to co-operate with each other through thick and thin. Sir, failing the establishment of such a Government at the Centre for reasons which everybody knows, I have attempted to establish such a Government from the village upwards through the medium of food committees on which the policy of this Government is based and on which I rely to a very great extent and from which I have got a considerable amount of co-operation, and which have got together the public of all sections, holding diverse creeds and political views all working for a common cause. I consider, Sir, that if we can continue on these lines, we hope that in course of time we may be able to have a Government of parties who will truly be prepared to co-operate with each other.

Sir, I think it was again Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu who said "You must possess the confidence of the people." With great respect to him, and in spite of all that my honourable friends opposite may say, I do claim that in the food policy we have the confidence of the people. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from the Ministerialist benches and cries of "question" from the Opposition benches.) The confidence of the people has been manifested. (Uproar.) I do not expect to have the confidence of that section of the House (pointing to the Opposition benches) because it is their job, if I may say so, to decry the Government. (Uproar.) (RAI HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: You are job-hunters.) And then Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu had a fling at the European party and said that this Ministry ought not to depend upon their votes. A little bird tells us that it was only yesterday that Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee paid a visit to the European party canvassing for their support. (Laughter.) The Europeans are as much a part of the House as anybody else. They have as much right to criticise, support and oppose as anybody else. If I have their confidence I am fortunate, and I hope, Sir, that we shall continue to act in such a manner that we shall get their confidence and we shall deserve that confidence. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from the Ministerial benches.) I claim nothing

more from them. I do not ask them to support the Ministry if we are not deserving of their confidence, and we hope, Sir, that we shall continue to act in a manner which will entitle us to their spport. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Remain always good boys.)

The increase in the expenditure of the Civil Supplies Department has been commented upon by various members in this House. Please realise what we are called upon to do. We have to procure foodgrains, we have to move them, to transport them in various ways; we have to distribute them afterwards in deficit areas or in towns; we must keep prices down; we must control prices; we must prevent hoarding and black-marketing. We must have a procurement branch, a distribution branch, an enforcement branch, a movement branch, and at the same time we must so plan that every area should have sufficiency of foodgrains. We must send adequate supplies to the deficit areas; we must arrange for their storage in those areas, and we must see that the foodgrains are well kept, that they are not spoiled and that there is no loss. We have to do likewise with almost every other commodity. Not only (as I am talking about foodgrains) have we to do all these things within the province, but we have to make arrangements for the procurement of foodgrains from outside the province. We have got to arrange for inspection outside. That is being done now. That is the meaning of "at present", which Mr. B. R. Sen referred to. At present, it is the responsibility of the receiving Government. We have to see that they are moved to this province. We have to receive them here, store them and send them at once to those areas that need them or send them to our ration shops. Then the same procedure has to be adopted for sugar, for cloth, for *gur*, for *dals* and for all the commodities that we get from outside including mustard seeds and mustard oil. We have to arrange for the distribution of kerosene within the province. If all these things have got to be done and if the work which used to be done by millions and millions of people is now going to be done by Government, surely we must have a sufficiency of staff and the cost of doing all this must necessarily go up. If you realise the work which is on our shoulders I do not think you can for a moment say that the expenditure that it involves is by any means not commensurate with the work. More than that I may tell the House that we shall have to increase our staff further. We need a proper enforcement branch. An honourable member has stated here what is the use of issuing circulars and orders if you cannot enforce orders. For such reasons, we shall have to have a proper enforcement branch. We shall have to appoint an Assistant Director for every subdivision. We shall have to go in—although this is not exactly my department it is linked to it—we shall have to go in for large rehabilitation schemes which will need further staff. If you want us to do work properly, if you want us to serve the people of Bengal, then we must have all these means at our disposal.

Now, Sir, what we are doing is this. Firstly, we have set up an organisation for the procurement of foodgrains. Government is satisfied with the progress that has been made in that behalf. We have not been able to get all the foodgrains that we thought would be available for us, but I think that it is all to the good. Procurement by Government of foodgrains was entirely a new venture. Had we procured more the probability was that

our arrangements would have broken down, our arrangements for movements, for storage, for sending to deficit areas, and our arrangements for reception and distribution. What we have done has been satisfactory. The old system of foodgrains coming on to the market between January and April has altered. A large quantity of foodgrains instead of coming on to the market still remains with the agriculturists. Certain misgivings have been voiced on this score. To my mind there is no need for these misgivings. I believe that most of the agriculturists have been misled very largely by the alarmist rumours propagated by certain sections, not necessarily by the Opposition but by certain sections in the country, and have come to hold the view that the price of foodgrains will rise again. Fortunately, Sir, in spite of what the honourable members may say the price of rice is coming down and I have the latest figures at my disposal from which I am satisfied that the price of rice is falling. There was a temporary rise in price, and there must be a rise in one or two places. For instance in Chittagong, where there is so much local inflation, there is bound to be a local rise in price. Take those areas where there were not sufficient foodgrains. We had to send to Faridpur and Dacca foodgrains from here. We are now sending foodgrains to Faridpur and Dacca in abundant quantities. The price there is bound to fall. Similarly the price is generally falling, with the result that those persons who have been keeping back their stocks in the hope that price will rise, in view of the alarmist rumours that there will be a repetition of last year, are bound to release their foodgrains. We have brought down our ceiling price of paddy by 4 annas with the result that within the last week the procurement has increased to a considerable extent. I am, therefore, satisfied with the progress that has been made. The more foodgrains are held back at this stage the more will come on the market at a later stage; and when this happens, prices will fall still further, and more and more foodgrains will be offered for sale.

Mr. Kennedy has raised the question of consumers' goods. This is a matter which has been engaging our attention and we have taken very prompt steps in this connection. We had the benefit of the services and experience of Mr. Lockhart who had placed this department on a sound foundation. Laterly, the Secretary to the Government of India in that department was here in Calcutta and we have had consultations with him on this matter. We expect that consumers' goods and particularly those that we need most, viz., corrugated iron sheets and agricultural implements will soon be arriving in considerable quantities.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What about surreptitious change and prevention of direct sale to Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: We are still considering that. The problem regarding procurement is that our agents are not yet able to spread their tentacles far enough. We shall have to have some kind of subsidiary system of purchase in order that the agriculturists may get a fair price.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That was the original arrangement.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: This is still the arrangement. It has not yet been carried out——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Because it means setting up an organisation which I am loth to take up unless I am satisfied that it will function satisfactorily; and because I am anxious as far as possible to utilise the trade channels as much as possible.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Local trade channels?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Yes. Now, Sir, I have not much time left. I would like to refer to a general matter, namely the financial responsibility that has been thrown on this Government in regard to food purchase matters and the loss that we have had to incur in order to pay for cheap shops and so on and in order to keep the people alive.

Sir, I am sure the House will agree with me in my assertion that this expenditure should not fall primarily upon the Provincial Government. It is an expenditure which we have had to incur on account of the war being at our doors. But this is not being largely recognised: it has not been recognised by other Governments; it has not been recognised by the Central Government. But for the war we would not have had those conditions which have been accentuated by the difficulties of movement and of transport: we would not have had those difficulties which have been accentuated due to larger consumption arising out of war conditions.

Sir, the war is at our doors, and I think the main responsibility rests with the Central Government and with any other Governments that are responsible for this war, and it will be our duty and joint endeavour to press for relief for the Government of Bengal, and not be satisfied with the airy manner with which the Hon'ble the Finance Member of the Government of India has given a paltry three crores of rupees to the Government of Bengal. It is not, Sir, that I do not realise his difficulties, but I think he should have a better, and if I may say so, a more realistic conception of what we have passed through and are passing through, and should realise that the difficulties of Bengal are mainly due to the war conditions and to the fact that we are in this zone. To that, Sir, I should add that our difficulties are likely to increase -in fact our difficulties are constantly increasing—though we are trying to meet them to the best of our ability. As all our difficulties are largely due to the war conditions, I think the Government of India should know that it is the unanimous wish of all sections of this House that it should accept the responsibility and undertake to discharge its liabilities in a much larger and more generous frame of mind.

Sir, there are various other matters which have been raised. I do not think I have got the time to deal with all of them. So, Sir, may I now deal with one point only, namely, Textiles.

Now, Sir, with regard to Textiles, I may say in passing that I have also discussed its problems with the Hon'ble Mr. Hydari, and I hope we shall be able to give some relief to the people here, and put on the market more cloth. I know it is impossible to tex-mark all the cloth within a reasonable time. I have pressed the matter before him and I feel sure that he will consider the case of the Government of Bengal a little bit more realistically than the Controller of Textiles. I can assure you that the Government of Bengal has left no stone unturned to point out to the Government of India that difficulties that have arisen, and that there is a likelihood of a cloth

famine unless some steps are taken immediately, and I am confident that after I have pressed the matter before the Hon'ble Mr. Hydari, something will be done.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What about the sale of unstamped cloths?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The licences of the evil-doers have been cancelled.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why don't you proceed against them in the court?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: That I am considering. But, Sir, as for those who have sold at prices even higher than the marked retail price, who have black marketed without compunction, there is no hope for them at all.

Now, Sir, with regard to the point that has been raised regarding Kasem Ismail's salt, I want to make the position clear. It was stated that Mr. Kasem Ismail charged Rs. 15 whereas the District Magistrate fixed the price at Rs. 13 or something like that. Sir, I have checked up the matter, there was a dispute of one anna. Mr. Kasem Ismail worked out the figure to show that the cost was Rs. 13-2 whereas the District Magistrate thought that the cost was Rs. 13-1. That was all about the dispute, and this did not stop the movement of one grain of salt—the salt which could be despatched and for which movement could be procured was sent.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, may I ask the Hon'ble Minister one question?

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you please resume your seat?

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: On a point of privilege, Sir. I want to ask one question.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will not allow that at this stage.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Why not?

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Biswas, will you kindly resume your seat?

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, why you have taken this attitude I cannot understand. I stand on my right to ask the Hon'ble Minister only one question.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, I cannot allow that. Will you kindly resume your seat?

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. When a member rises to put a question, what reason is there for not allowing him to do so? He has risen on a point of privilege.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not a point of order at all and I do not allow it.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, may I just point out that you have always disallowed interruptions and very rightly, if I may say so, when a speech is made by an Hon'ble Minister in reply, but you have made an exception in the case of questions being put at the end of a speech if the questions are utilised for the purpose of bringing out further facts. This is exactly the position which Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas has taken up, and I do not think that he deserved a summary treatment from you in this fashion.

Mr. SPEAKER: The real position is that the debate was to terminate punctually at 6-35 p.m., and that is the reason which compels me to put the motions straightaway to vote. So I cannot allow any further discussion, and I hope the members will kindly be in their own seats.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why should the debate terminate at 6-35 p.m., Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already said that.

The motion of Mr. Charu Chandra Roy that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and a division called.

(After the ringing of the Division bell the motion was again, as usual, put by Mr. Speaker.)

Mr. SPEAKER: The question before the House is the cut motion No. 5 moved by Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta. Those who are in favour of it——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will you please read out the whole motion?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not necessary.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is necessary, Sir. I rise on a point of order. This cut motion be put on record. I submit that it is wrong on the part of the office to direct the reporters to keep a wrong record as we find that in all our cut motions only the reduction is mentioned, viz., that the demand be reduced by Rs. 100, but "to raise a discussion... .." that sentence is taken out. I submit, Sir, it is extremely unfortunate that the office should direct official reporters to make a report in a wrong way and not to take a proper and correct report of what members utter in this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The practice that has been followed all along will be followed.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is not the practice. I submit that the report must be a correct report of the proceedings.

Mr. SPEAKER: Quite so.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I have got with me reports——

Mr. SPEAKER: No question arises at the time of putting. Will you kindly resume your seat? You can make your submission afterwards.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, you will kindly read the entire motion. That has been the practice all along.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not the practice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, that is the practice in the House. The motion has to be put. Sir, it is extremely unfair. It has been the practice you yourself have followed. You will kindly read out the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you kindly resume your seat? I think I need not explain in detail what happened.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Would you kindly read out the motion?

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you kindly resume your seat? Is it fair to the Chair that you will not allow him to finish?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I submit, it is fair to the Chair to request him to read out the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will not accept your dictation.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You are again requested to put the motion. The rule requires that the motion should be put.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion is that the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is not the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is the motion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The motion is that the demand be reduced by Rs. 100 with a view to raise a discussion——

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you please resume your seat? If you do not allow me to finish, is it proper——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, please put the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will put the motion according to my own light. I cannot follow your dictation.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You will be good enough to put the motion as it is.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion is that the demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Then, Sir, what is the difference between that motion and other motions?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, all the motions are preceded by the wordings "That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100". In that case, how do we differentiate between one motion and another? It is necessary that the House should be given to understand the difference between two motions. It may be, Sir, that you may not put one motion but put the other.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, may I submit that originally Sir Azizul Haque did put the whole thing. It is the office that abused this thing and they have directed the reporters to report otherwise. It is extremely unfair and wrong and it is against the privilege of the House. The motion must be put as the motion stands. The rule requires that a motion must be wholly put and not a part of it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you kindly allow me to finish? If you had allowed me to finish, there would not have been any necessity for this discussion. I am sorry you have not allowed me to finish. The real position is this. I am stating all these facts because on a previous occasion this point was raised and I had an occasion to look into the whole affair. Originally the practice used to be that the whole thing used to be put.

Subsequently, my predecessor went into this matter and it appears that for nearly three years——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is not a fact. The office misdirected——

Mr. SPEAKER: Whatever that may be, I have found this practice in existence. That is on record.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is recorded wrongly. The practice has always been otherwise.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, it is extremely unfair to the Chair and it is unfair to the House if you go on like that. I am telling you the position because you yourself raised this point on some other occasion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am always maintaining the same position.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY: Sir, I tell you frankly that I want to understand what is the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you kindly resume your seat? I am sorry I have not been allowed to tell the whole thing. If you kindly cease interrupting me, I may tell you what I know about the whole thing and then I will tell you what I am going to do, but before I finish a sentence if you interrupt me, it becomes impossible for me to state what the present practice is and what should be done. Now the position as I have been able to find from the records is this. At present it is only recorded that the cut motion moved by so and so was put and lost. That is what I find recorded in the records for a pretty long time. Previous to that there used to be sometimes the other thing stated, viz., "to raise a discusion" and so on and sometimes it used not to be so recorded. That is what I have found. Now, when I came in office, I used to put sometimes that the demand be reduced by Rs. 100 and sometimes the whole thing when that objection has been taken, I put the whole thing before the House. At one stage Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi raised the point whether this is permissible and for that the whole thing was reviewed and it appears to me from the records that the practice which appears to have been uniformly followed for a pretty long time is this that the cut motion number so and so was put and lost.

The real position, therefore, is that if you insist, for the time being I am going to put the entire thing according to your desire. But I think I will have to give a decision on it tomorrow or on a future date and that decision will be final. So far as this matter is concerned, in pursuance of the desire of the Opposition to which Government have got no objection, I am putting the whole thing before the House.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100, which was moved to raise a discussion about—

(i) the utter failure of the Government to control the price of rice and the necessity of controlling the other necessaries of life which are abnormally rising every day;

(*ii*) the utter apathy and sense of optimism displayed by Government in statements issued now and then in the face of the increased rise in price and apprehended outbreak of famine in large areas of Province of Bengal; and

(*iii*) the failure of Government in feeding large number of starving people now in many areas in the province of Bengal,

was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—62.

Abdul Waheed, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Banerjee, Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Barman, Mr. Upendra Nath.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhawmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das, Babu Radhanath.
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.
Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Edbar, Mr. Upendranath.
Fazlul Huq, Mr. A. K.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Syed.
Jalan, Mr. I. D.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Lahiri, Babu Ashutosh.
Mahtab, Maharajadhiraja Bahadur Uday Chand, of Burdwan.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hosain, Mr.
Mookerjee, Dr. Syamaprasad.
Mukherji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan.
Mukherjee, Mr. B.
Mukherji, Dr. H. C.
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra.
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh.
Nandy, Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Paul, Sir Hari Sanker.
Poddar, Mr. Anandilal.
Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna.
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Roy, Shib Shekhareswar, Kumar.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Sen, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Sen, Jogesh Chandra Rai Bahadur.
Sen-Gupta, Mrs. Nellie.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan.
Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar.
Wallur Rahman, Maulvi.

NOES—129.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakeem, Mr. (Khulna).
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Halim Molla, Maulvi Muhammad.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi.
Abdul Jabbar, Maulvi.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Lotif Biswas, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed (Noakhali).
Abdul Metaleb Malik, Dr.
Abdulla-Al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr.
Abdur Rashid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Maulvi S. (Howrah).
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah (Rangpur).
Abdus Shaheed, Maulvi Md.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Masud, Kazi.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Anwarul Azim, Khan Bahadur Md.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Barma, the Hon'ble Mr. Premhari.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Chakrabarty, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Chakrabarty, Babu Narendra Narayan.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Das, Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Das, Mr. Monmohan.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Gladding, Mr. D., C.I.E.
Golam Rabbani Ahammad, Maulvi.
Gomes, Mr. R. A.

Goswami, the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra.
Griffiths, Mr. C.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hamilton, Mr. K. A.
Hasanuzzaman, Khan Sahib Maulvi Md.
Hosina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E.
Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Haywood, Mr. Rogers.
Hendry, Mr. David.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A.F., O.B.E.
Hodge, Mr. H. R.
Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H., M.B.E.
Jalaluddin Ahmad, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Leick, Mr. John.
McPherson, Mr. G. P.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Dr. (Bogra).
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib Maulvi (Tippera).
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Mandal, Mr. [illegible]nku Behari.
Mandal, Mr. [illegible]gat Chandra.
Mandal, the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Masud Ali Khan Panni, Al-Hadj Maulvi.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Mohsin Ali, Mr. Md.
Morgan, Mr. G., C.I.E.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Mukerjea, the Hon'ble Mr. Taraknath, M.B.E.
Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Pulin Behary.
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Mustagawai Haque, Mr. Syed.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.
Noorudden, Mr. K.
Norton, Mr. H. R., M.B.E.
Pain, the Hon'ble Mr. Baroda Prosanna.
Powell, Mr. J. A.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Sahebe-Alam, Mr. Syed.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Shahedali, Mr.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Smart, Mr. J. N.
Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Stevenson, Mr. R. A. H.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Therman, Mr. C. M.
Walker, Mr. J. R.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M., C.B.E.
Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C.I.E.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.
Zahur Ahmed, Choudhury, Maulvi.
Zillur Rahman Shah Choudhury, Maulvi.

The Ayes being 62 and the Noes 129, the motion was lost.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Ramizuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Upendra Nath Barman that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India", be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head '63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Maqbul Hosain that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Maqbul Hosain that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Harendra Kumar Sur that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Harendra Kumar Sur that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Harendra Kumar Sur that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Alhadj Gyasuddin Ahmed Chaudhury that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Sen that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Waliur Rahman that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Waliur Rahman that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Atul Chandra Sen that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. B. Mukherjee that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. P. Banerji that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. P. Banerji that the demand of Rs. 8,50,57,000 for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin that a sum of Rs. 8,50,57,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" was then put and agreed to.

(At this stage, the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Re. 1 be granted for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with war, 1939".

I hope the House will have no objection to granting one rupee.

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Re. 1 under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with war, 1939" be reduced by anna one.

I move this motion to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government in embarking on schemes involving heavy financial commitments and giving effect to the same without taking the House into confidence beforehand thereby throwing additional burden on the Provincial Exchequer which is a legitimate burden on the revenues of the Government of India.

This new head has been opened in the current year for the exhibition of large scale trading transactions undertaken by Government in order to improve the food situation in the province.

The total outlay involved in these transactions is of the order of Rs. 76 crores in the current year and of Rs. 81 crores in the coming year.

The estimated loss due to sale of foodstuff to the public and to Government servants at concession rates in the current year has been placed at Rs. 3½ crores and in the coming year at Rs. 5 crores.

It is not possible at this stage to estimate the losses attributable to such factors as shortage, damaged or unsalable stock, etc.

The book value of the stock likely to remain in hand at the close of the year is estimated at Rs. 29¾ crores and a carry forward of Rs. 12 crores of foodgrains other than wheat and Rs. 56 lakhs of salt.

The huge capital required has been obtained from three sources, viz., loans from the Central Government, cash credit advances from the Imperial Bank of India and Treasury Bills. Henceforth the bulk of these purchases will be financed directly out of the cash credit advances taken from the Imperial Bank of India, Calcutta. The interest on these loans will have to be met from the Provincial revenues.

Sir, between June and October this Government received loans and advances totalling 12 crores from the Centre. But afterwards the Government of India indicated that they desired the Provincial Government to make their own arrangements to raise funds in the open market or through normal trade channels. In compliance with the wishes of the Central

Government this Government made arrangements with the Imperial Bank of India for the opening of cash credit account for financing the various trading operations under this head.

In November last the Government of Bengal addressed the Government of India and asked for a subvention, but no reply has so far been received. The Hon'ble Finance Minister says, "In seeking financial assistance from the Centre in our present difficulties I do not consider it is charity for which we are asking". In utter despair he exclaims that he has come to believe in the motto "Heaven helps those that help themselves". But he does not stop there: he assures the House that he hopes to raise 10 crores more revenue than was raised in the two preceding years by fresh taxation.

In his speech in September last while presenting the budget estimates he said, "We in Bengal have sought the assistance of the Government of India; we have, at great sacrifice, offered them co-operation. I sincerely hope that assistance will be rendered unto us in the spirit of the proverb: 'He giveth twice who giveth soon'." If this war continues for some years more, this Government will have to go on borrowing year after year huge sums of money to carry on these trading transactions undertaken for the purpose of improving the food situation and, Sir, imagine for a moment the condition of the finances of this province after the termination of the war. When the question of post-war reconstruction will arise, the condition of the provincial finance will not permit to undertake any scheme of reconstruction. The nation-building activities have now been suspended (at this stage the member reached the time-limit but was allowed to finish the sentence) on account of war and they will have to be suspended after the war on account of want of funds, and the revenue receipts will naturally come down to the pre-war levels and the war debts will be a permanent encumbrance on the revenues of the province.

Mr. MAQBUL HOSAIN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Re. 1 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital Outlay on provincial schemes connected with war, 1939" be reduced by anna one. I move this in order to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to account for purchase of rice and wheat at lower price from outside Bengal and sale of the same at great profits in Bengal.

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, বাংলার মন্ত্রিসভা বিশেষ করে সরবরাহ-সচিব মিঃ সুরাবর্দ্দি বাংলার বাহিরের অন্যান্য প্রদেশ হইতে অপেক্ষাকৃত কম মূল্যে চাউল, গম প্রভৃতি খাদ্যদ্রব্য ক্রয় করিয়া বাংলাদেশে অতিরিক্ত মূল্যে বিক্রয় করছেন, তার তীব্র নিন্দা ও সমালোচনা করিবার জন্য এই ছাটাই প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত করিতেছি।

বাংলার লক্ষ লক্ষ নরনারী ও শিশু সন্তান যখন খাদ্যাভাবে মারা যাইতেছিল, তখন তাদের আকুল আহ্বানে ভারতের অন্যান্য প্রদেশ সাড়া দিয়াছিল। তারা লক্ষ লক্ষ মণ চাউল ও গম অতি অল্পমূল্যে বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিকট বিক্রয় করিয়াছিল। কিন্তু বাংলার মন্ত্রিসভা অতি উচ্চ মূল্যে (যখন বাংলা দেশের পথে ঘাটে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক খাদ্যাভাবে মারা যাইতেছিল) সেই খাদ্যদ্রব্য বিক্রয় করে কোটি কোটি টাকা লাভ করেছে। পাঞ্জাব গভর্ণমেণ্ট একথা জানিতে পেরেছিল এবং পাঞ্জাবের মন্ত্রী মাননীয় মিঃ ছোটুরাম ইহার তীব্র নিন্দা করেছিলেন। যাঁরা হবেন রাষ্ট্রের কর্ণধার, যাঁদের হাতে থাকবে রাষ্ট্র পরিচালনার ও শাসনের ক্ষমতা, তাঁরা যদি

dishonest হন, যদি দরিদ্র জনসাধারণকে শোষণ করে নিজের পকেট ভর্ত্তি করেন তাহলে তাঁহাদিগকে অগৌণে দায়িত্বশীল পদ হইতে অপসারণ করা প্রধান কর্ত্তব্য।

বাংলার সচিবসংঘের অপকীর্ত্তি এইখানেই শেষ হয় নাই। যশোহর, রংপুর, বর্দ্ধমান প্রভৃতি স্থানে সরকারী শস্যভাণ্ডারে যখন লক্ষ লক্ষ মণ চাউল মজুদ ছিল, তখন বাংলার অগণিত লোক খাদ্যাভাবে শেয়াল কুকুরের মত প্রাণ হারিয়েছে। হাজার হাজার লোককে কলিকাতা ও অন্যান্য শহরের আবর্জনাস্তূপ হইতে অখাদ্য সংগ্রহ করে খেতে দেখা গিয়েছে। মন্ত্রিসভা কৈফিয়ৎ দিয়াছেন যানবাহনের অভাবে ও রেলগাড়ীর অভাবে এই সমস্ত মজুদ শস্য ঐ সমস্ত স্থানে নিতে পারা যায় নাই। কিন্তু কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট হইতে তার প্রতিবাদ করা হইয়াছে। কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার বলেছেন দুর্গত অঞ্চলে খাদ্যশস্য প্রেরণের ব্যবস্থা কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার পূর্ব্বাহ্নেই করেছিলেন এবং বাংলার মন্ত্রিসভাকে তাহা জানান হইয়াছিল।

মন্ত্রিসভা gruel kitchenএ দুর্গতদের খাওয়ার যে ব্যবস্থা করেছিলেন, তাও সমর্থনযোগ্য নহে। যেখানে প্রয়োজন ছিল ২০০ লোকের খাওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করা, সেখানে হয়ত ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছিল ২৫ জনের। ফলে এই দাঁড়িয়েছিল যে বাকি ১৭৫ জন লোক অনাহারে সেখানেই প্রাণত্যাগ করিল। এর জন্য বাংলার মন্ত্রিসভা একমাত্র দায়ী।

দুনিয়ার সমস্ত চিন্তাশীল ব্যক্তিগণ এমন কি বৃটিশ পার্লিয়ামেণ্ট হইতে আরম্ভ করিয়া কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার পর্য্যন্ত সকলেই বাংলার মন্ত্রিসভাকে ইহার জন্য দায়ী করিয়াছেন। বর্ত্তমান বৎসরের খাদ্যশস্যের মূল্য যেরূপভাবে বৃদ্ধি পাইতেছে এবং বাংলার ঘাটতি অঞ্চলে খাদ্যশস্য প্রেরণের যে অব্যবস্থা আছে তাহাতে আমরা আশঙ্কা করিতেছি যে বাংলায় আবার গত বৎসরের পুনরাভিনয় হইবে।

এই অবস্থার উন্নতি করিতে হইলে বাংলায় স্বাভাবিক ব্যবসা-বাণিজ্যের গতি ফিরাইয়া আনা দরকার এবং তার জন্য চাই সর্ব্বদলীয় মন্ত্রিসভা। আন্তর্জাতিক পরিস্থিতি এই সঙ্কটপূর্ণ মুহূর্ত্তে বিশেষ করে জাপান যখন ভারতভূমিতে প্রবেশ করেছে তখন জনসাধারণের অনাস্থাভাজন, স্বার্থপর ও অযোগ্য মন্ত্রিসভার দ্বারা যুদ্ধ-প্রচেষ্টার কোনই সহায়তা হবে না। বাংলার গভর্ণর যদি যুদ্ধ-প্রচেষ্টা সাফল্যমণ্ডিত করতে চান এবং জনসাধারণের সহযোগিতা চান তাহলে অনতি-বিলম্বে স্যার জন হার্ব্বার্টের সৃষ্ট এই মন্ত্রিসভা ভেঙ্গে দিয়ে সর্ব্বদলীয় মন্ত্রিসভা গঠনের সুযোগ দান করুন। তাহলেই বাংলার স্বাভাবিক পূর্ব্বাবস্থা ফিরে আসবে।

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with war, 1939" be reduced by one anna, to raise a discussion about the policy and the method of the Government in this connection.

Sir, without going into the details of the Government policy it will be enough if I say that Government policy in this regard is to suppress the normal trade channel and to substitute it by Government purchase departments by appointing agents and sub-agents, to prevent anti-hoarding by private persons and to despatch and carry food articles from surplus to deficit areas and to introduce rationing in places where it was necessary. Sir, if we have to suppress the normal trade channel we have to make elaborate arrangements for transport, for storage of article and for equitable distribution. Whether Government succeeded in these matters will be only known by the result that Government achieved in the last year and this year.

Sir, I was last evening telling before the House that even one month back in the Dinajpur town alone 2 lakhs of maunds of rice and paddy were

in store at the Government granary. You know, Sir, when people in Dacca, Noakhali and Chittagong were starving we had in Government stores 2 lakhs of maunds of paddy and rice in Dinajpur. There were no arrangements for despatching this huge quantity of rice and paddy which was lying there unutilised. Now, Sir, I was telling this House that though it was the intention of the Government to prevent hoarding by private persons what practically happened is this. There were huge stores of rice and paddy in different granaries of private persons. These were there under requisition from Government. What happened to those rice and paddy? They were rotting there in the granaries. No arrangement was made by Government to carry them to areas which were deficit. Up till now, Sir, they are rotting in the different granaries of private persons. So who were the hoarders? Government were undoubtedly the hoarders. They tried to prevent hoarding but did in turn hoard themselves. These hoarded rice and paddy were not available for Dinajpur people nor were they available to people who were starving in different areas.

Now, Sir, as regards rationing I will give only one instance. We have heard about rationing in Chittagong. That is an area which requires rationing most. We learn that only 15 per cent. of the population are getting the benefit of rationing.

Then, Sir, we all know that private traders who carry business have the initiative to transport things from one place to another for their profit. There is no such initiative for the Government officers. So there must be some arrangement made which will really substitute the huge arrangement which is attached to private trade channels. That has not been done.

Sir, I received a telegram yesternight from Thakurgaon from a prominent office-bearer of the League and Secretary of the local Central Co-operative Bank. The telegram runs thus:

> "Salt allowed sell eight annas per seer. No supply kerosene two months. Pray immediate instruction. Fazlul Karim."

Sir, for two months if there be no kerosene you will easily imagine the difficulties of the people living in the mufassal. Salt is also sold at 8 annas per seer. Sir, this is a telegram coming from Thakurgaon subdivision which is lying on the border of Bihar. Everybody knows that in Bihar salt is selling at 11 pice per seer. If salt is available in Bihar at 11 pice why salt is sold in Dinajpur in Bengal at 8 annas per seer? The only reason is that Government have not been able to make proper arrangements. Mismanagement and bungling of the Government are responsible for these difficulties.

As regards the Civil Supplies offices in districts, the history is the same everywhere. There petitions for licences or permits for sale of kerosene, *atta* and sugar are always missing from the office only because the petitioners will not get any orders on their petitions passed if they will not give something to the officers. The plea of the officers will therefore be to tell them that their petitions are missing. I have seen personally that when petitions are filed to the District Civil Supplies offices, either they are missing or they are delayed in disposal. Sometimes delay has been for 8 months. I

know of cases where persons who were black-marketing and convicted under the Defence of India Rules, were allowed to continue but persons——

(The member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Re. 1 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939" be reduced by one anna, to raise a discussion about the wastefulness involved in the large scale trading transactions and the necessity for setting up a machinery to scrutinise the operations closely at every stage with a view to minimise loss.

I also move that the demand of Re. 1 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the war, 1939" be reduced by one anna in order to raise a discussion about the Salt Purchase Scheme.

Sir, at this late hour of evening I shall not detain the House for a long time with a long speech on these two issues. We had already on previous occasions explained how we feel that Government ought to have set up a proper and suitable machinery to check and examine the purchases at the earlier stages before the Government advanced large sums on their account. It is not my case, Sir, that Government have made any mistake in the policy of purchase from outside the province, nor is it my case that I would leave things uncontrolled to trade, but, Sir, I would submit that when such large scale trading is to be taken up by Government, Government should have depended more on trade methods than on the bureaucratic methods of Writers Buildings officialdom. Sir, what the Government ought to have done in my humble opinion is to set up a sort of board like the Port Trust or some statutory committee to which could be entrusted the entire task of purchase and the Government could give them a definite direction as to the margin of profit that they could make on certain transactions with a view to setting off that profit against probable losses. The ultimate outcome of that transaction might have been left to the Government to bear. What we all know is that there was a stage when the Government could have purchased large quantities of foodgrains from within the province and also from outside the province at comparatively cheaper prices, and they did purchase at prices varying from Rs. 9 to Rs. 11 for rice at one stage from Orissa, Sambalpur and the Central Provinces. But the profit that Government could have made on such purchases could not be properly utilised for two reasons. The first reason was that there was a kind of suspicion on the part of other provinces that Bengal was making large profits out of cheap grains supplied by them and this was at the cost of the cultivator of that province. The second clamour was from Bengal itself that Government was making large profits from trading transactions when many complained that the Government of Bengal had purchased wheat from the Punjab at low prices and sold it at very high prices. I submit, Sir, that in the nature of things this kind of difference of margin between the purchase price and the sale price is bound to happen. Government ought to have clarified the position earlier and could have a sufficient adjustment of profit and loss to minimise the loss on Government account by grading the qualities and selling the better quality stuffs at much higher prices than what they are doing at present and selling comparatively bad

quality stuffs at cheaper prices to enable the poor people to get them at prices within their reach. Instead of that, the Government in their wisdom decided to have a flat price and as my friend Mr. Jalan has pointed out sometimes rice which was normally, before the crisis, selling in Calcutta at prices varying from Rs. 16 to Rs. 20 per maund is now available at Rs. 16 a maund from ration shops and rice which was formerly available from Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 a maund only is also being paid for at a rate of six annas a seer or Rs. 15 per maund.

Now, Sir, this is an anomaly which Government could have avoided by a little imagination and even now the Government would be well advised to exercise that imagination.

Sir, as has been stated in the Red Book on page 81, the loss that Government calculated on one account only, namely, the deliberate depreciation of value of Government stock and the possible loss on the subsidized sales to Government servants and to others comes to about Rs. 5 crores in the budget for 1944-45. I presume, Sir, that there would be also further amounts added to it, because I found only today a proposed scheme of relief and rehabilitation for 1944-45 where the total expenses estimated at the present moment go up beyond Rs. 9½ crores. A portion of that also would be for work houses and the like where probably some amount of loss on account of foodgrains would also appear. Sir, this loss is exclusive of the loss that may arise as a result of shortage, damages and unsaleable stocks. The total loss apprehended thus is something colossal, and I submit, Sir, that when such large losses are involved there is every possibility of certain persons trying to get an opportunity for abuse and there is a case made out for a very careful scrutiny being made of every transaction.

The other point that I wanted to draw attention to was the salt purchase. I have no quarrel with Government regarding their anticipation of shortage of salt in the province and their attempt to keep a stock for future use, but what I feel is that Government does not really meet the situation by merely taking away from the Calcutta market a certain stock to be held over for future distribution. If Government could really import some additional stock from sources of supply other than its own this problem could have been solved and not merely by keeping back from the Calcutta market certain stock which would be available in the usual course as certain imports come. The trouble is that the whole of Bengal has been left to be supplied only by the sea route. Formerly, as normal trade agents know, a lot of salt was coming to Bengal by the metre gauge railway line to North Bengal in particular and a large quantity was also coming to stations like Sahibganj to be transported by water to districts like Rajshahi, Pabna, also Dacca and further down. Many merchants have complained that although they can even now arrange to obtain supply from the land route over the railway to stations like Sahibganj and transport the salt as they did formerly when they were getting permits from the Bihar Government to districts like Rajshahi, Malda and Pabna, that permission is not being granted now. The whole idea of supplying salt from Calcutta is wrong, and the land route also should be opened. I hope the Government will take due note of this.

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Re. 1 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on

Provincial Schemes connected with the war, 1939", be reduced by one anna. Mr. Speaker, I have managed to secure five minutes of the valuable time of the House again, and the allotment of my time is quite on a par with the method of presentation of this demand.

The demand is for Re. 1, the cut is for one anna. So, let the demand be passed and let the Hon'ble Minister be satisfied with the balance, namely, 15 annas.

Sir, the position is peculiar. We are here dealing with crores of rupees. In fact, Mr. Speaker, if you care to analyse page 81 of the Red Book and also analyse the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister you will observe that on account of the grain purchase scheme of the Government of Bengal there has been a loss to the province to the extent of Rs. 10,85,00,000 on account of sale alone. There is not a word said about shortage, damage and unsaleable stocks. I can visualise the impossibility of stating shortage, damage and unsaleable stocks for the coming year, but surely figures are available and should have been made available to the House about the amount of wastage or loss on shortage, damage and unsaleable stocks during the year that is going by.

Mr. Speaker, my comprehension of the budget is limited, but as I understand the budget it is an account of profit and loss. Sir, where are the amounts on account of profits which the Government of Bengal secured for themselves? I put the question to the Hon'ble Minister. That is because two Provincial Governments, namely, the Government of the Punjab and the Government of Sind categorically stated in public that such profits had been made by somebody or somebodies. Sir, the Government of India took the trouble of issuing a communique on the point and yet after ransacking the whole of the Red Book and the Blue Book it is a bulky volume, I did not come across the amount which the Government of Bengal or somebody on behalf of the Government of Bengal got as profit on account of these transactions.

Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend Mr. Suhrawardy is very happy about the telegram which the Government of India has sent to the Government of Bengal about increased quota for sugar and mustard seed and mustard oil. Sir, the contents of the telegram have not been disclosed to us. May I know if the contentions raised by Mr. M. P. Gandhi, the Editor of the "Indian Sugar Industry Annual" have met with the support of the Government of Bengal. Sir, Mr. Gandhi is reported to have stated on the 17th March that the sugar rationed in Bombay is 3 lbs. *per capita* per month as against 2 lbs. in Calcutta. Will the increased quota come to the people of Bengal, the same rationing facilities in the matter of sugar as has been conceded by the Government of Bombay? I should like an answer from the Hon'ble Minister—a categorical answer, not a vague answer which satisfies his own conscience on this particular question.

Mr. Speaker, the question of salt has been raised in my cut motion. The Government is prepared to pay a subvention of Rs. 56 lakhs to another province. I wish that province good luck. But what about schemes for the purpose of manufacture of salt as an industry in this province? Without importing politics into it, it is quite possible to raise salt from this province. I have not come across any scheme in this budget whereby the

desired object could be achieved. There is a provision, but it is a very small provision.

There is one point on which I am probably for the first time in agreement with the Hon'ble Minister in charge and that is where he states that the expenditure which this province has been incurring is not merely of provincial concern. It is because Bengal is in the theatre of war that a large amount of money has to be spent and I shall only condemn the Government for failure to secure adequate subsidy from the Government of India.

In my last speech I referred to the fact that notwithstanding the fact that the Government of Bengal had asked for Rs. 9 crores from the Government of India, the Government of India was prepared to concede to it only Rs. 3 crores and not only that, the Government of India conceded this grant at an enhanced rate of interest. The rate of interest varied last year between Rs. 1-2 and Rs. 1-4 per cent. and now it has gone up to 2 per cent. I put a question to the Hon'ble Finance Minister as to why this sharp rise in the rate of interest. I am not overlooking the fact that certain grants were interest free. May I expect the Hon'ble Minister to give me the details about this sharp rise in the rate of interest which will cost this province quite a considerable sum of money?

There is just one word—my time is running short—and that is about the distribution scheme of the Government of Bengal. The less said within the time allotted to me about this matter the better and connected with the distribution scheme which is more or less a failure, I should like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the fact that rice has disappeared from the market. It is not a political stunt. It is a fact; it is a realify which fact and which reality will strike hard against the optimistic nature of the Hon'ble Minister. Last year we were regaled with his *taktapoosh* speech. This year we shall probably have an arm chair speech from the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Civil Supplies.

Sir, the sands of my time have run out. I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I shall be very brief in my reply. I shall take this opportunity to remove the cobwebs which are still clouding the issues. In the first place I need not refer again to the responsibility of the Government of India. We have not had, as I have stated before, such a deal as we are entitled to, but we shall continue to protest and the fact that we are involved in these difficulties is not going to slow down the work of reconstruction which we are determined to undertake. What will happen subsequently we shall see, but we shall not allow the province of Bengal to suffer merely because the Government of India chooses to be niggardly at this stage.

specific reason everybody knows. Today I can tell you that whilst such of Bengal has made. I am sorry that this cry is raised in this House. It is bad enough that it is raised outside. That it is raised outside for a specific reason everybody knows. Today I can tell you that whilst such a furore was raised throughout India on the alleged profits which the

Government of Bengal was making on the wheat transactions, nothing has been said—the whole of India is quiet; the Government of India is quiet, and the nationalist papers of the other provinces are quiet about the profits which the other provinces are making at the expense of Bengal. There they have a people that are used to supporting their Government. Their Governments are making profits at the expense of Bengal. They are supported by their people. I pointed out over and over again that the alleged profits on wheat transactions were due to certain misunderstanding. The Government of India had promised to send us large quantities of wheat on the basis of which we had made arrangements for transport, for storage, for retransport and for handling. That amount of wheat was not sent to Bengal. Even the godowns of the mills remained empty. For that reason these expenses were not incurred and we made a profit. We immediately pointed out that we proposed to reduce this profit by selling wheat at a lower price. There are various views regarding this. I am not certain whether we were justified even in reducing the price of wheat merely because we were making some profits on wheat transactions. As a matter of fact there is another view that all the foodgrains should be taken as a whole and not separately, like wheat transactions and rice transactions. If we take the transactions as a whole then considering the amount of losses that we were making on the rice transactions, there is no question that we would have been justified in making some profit on wheat, but inasmuch as the Government of the Punjab and even the members opposite tried to make political capital out of this at the expense of provincial finance, we agreed to lower the price of wheat to treat the wheat transactions separately. As a matter of fact we are now thinking of lowering the price of wheat and wheat products still further. As I pointed out some time ago we have been receiving Australian wheat at a cheaper price.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You will have some profit all the same.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: We shall go on decreasing the price until we undergo a loss. Honourable members have always been repeating the statement that while foodgrains were waiting in Dinajpur, in Jessore or in Burdwan persons were dying of starvation in Faridpur and Dacca. The statement is not correct. At the time when we accumulated rice in Dinajpur or on the Jessore platforms or in Burdwan, there was rice in the markets in Faridpur and Dacca. Honourable members know—at any rate if they do not know they ought to know—that in Faridpur and Dacca the crop this year was cut earlier than in any other place. From the 7th of November the new rice began to appear in the markets. Therefore there was no necessity whatsoever for removing the foodgrains from where we had stored. The reason why we kept the stock at Jessore was that we began to receive reports from Jessore that rice was disappearing from the Jessore markets. We told the dealers "Come along, we have the rice and you put it on the market". As I pointed out sometime ago we offered the paddy to traders at Rs. 6-4. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is not a fact.) Ultimately it was sold at Rs. 7-4. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You offered it when it began to rot.) No, I know what I am talking about.

Another point that has been raised by honourable members is that after we requisitioned the rice we allowed that rice to rot in the godowns of

persons from whom we had requisitioned it during the food drive, and that we did not distribute it. There is no substance in this as well. If you look at the order you will find that the freezing order was vacated automatically after the lapse of a month, and hence the stock could be removed and disposed of, and there was nothing left to rot. Very soon there was no stock in any one's hands. At that time also there were difficulties regarding transport and the Transport Department was just taking shape. We were trying to remove rice from those inaccessible places to more accessible places and consequently some rice remained in the inaccessible parts which could not be moved.

Now, Sir, a point has been raised regarding the opening up of a land route for salt. I entirely sympathise with it. I think that our salt condition has deteriorated to such an extent that it is the duty of the Government of India at once to open up the land route and send salt as much as possible and from whatever sources possible. This point has been already taken up with the Government of India by the Government of Bengal and the Government of India has promised to send our ordinary quota. But I am not satisfied with that. I think the Government of Bengal has a claim for a much larger quota than what has been promised and we ought to get it from wheresoever we can. I can tell the House that we have taken up this matter very seriously with the Government of India and very shortly I hope that important officials of the Government of India will be coming down here to discuss the matter with us or if the House gives me an opportunity I shall go and discuss the matter with them at Delhi (Laughter).

Sir, Mr. Banerjee has asked whether there will be an increase in the sugar ration. I sincerely hope so. I hope we shall be able to increase it to the Bombay standard. But previous to that I hope we shall be able to put *gur* on the market, and allot half a seer of *gur* per person as a supplement to the sugar quota. And that will be put on the market along with salt, so that everybody will have something. The price of *gur* here is very high, and we have arranged to bring it at a fairly cheap rate from Bihar and the United Provinces, particularly from the United Provinces. The Bihar arrangements have not yet taken shape but the United Provinces *gur* has begun to arrive, and we propose putting it on the market at a price which will be in parity with the purchase price.

I think, Sir, I have made the position clear, and I hope the House will be pleased to pass my very modest demand of Re. 1. (Laughter).

The motion of Mr. Harendra Kumar Sur that the demand of Re. 1 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with war, 1939", be reduced by anna one, was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Maqbul Hosain that the demand of Re. 1 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with war, 1939," be reduced by anna one, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu that the demand of Re. 1 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with war, 1939," be reduced by anna one, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Re. 1 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939," be reduced by anna one, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Re. 1 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939," be reduced by anna one, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee that the demand of Re. 1 for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939," be reduced by anna one, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy that a sum of Re. 1 be granted for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, 1939," was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 8-10 p.m. till 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 25th March, 1944, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Saturday, the 25th March, 1944, at 10 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 12 Hon'ble Ministers and 194 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Number of sale deeds registered in Rangpur.

***191. Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education (Registration) Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

(*a*) the number of sale deeds registered in the district of Rangpur in 1943 transferring agricultural lands; and

(*b*) the percentage of these sale deeds in which the consideration money involved was below Rs.250?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): A statement furnishing the required particulars is laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to starred question No. 191.

Number of sale deeds registered in the district of Rangpur in 1943 transferring agricultural lands—85,524.

Percentage of sale deeds, the consideration money of which is below Rs.250—87.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that most of these persons transferring lands have become destitute?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise out of this question.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what relief Government intend to give to those persons whose consideration money of the sale deeds goes above Rs. 250?

Mr. SPEAKER: How the question arises I have not understood.

Alleged dearth of small coins in stations of Bengal and Assam Railway.

***192. Maulana Md. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware of the fact that in all stations on the Bengal and Assam Railway passengers cannot purchase tickets with rupee coin or currency notes unless they are in possession of requisite amount of small coins?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of drawing the attention of the railway authorities in the matter?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prasanna Pain): The Railway Administration reports that it has received no complaints to the effect. It is prepared to take necessary action if specific instances are brought to its notice.

Cultivable waste lands in Bengal.

***193. Mr. I. C. KENNEDY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state whether the Government have made a survey of cultivable waste land in Bengal?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the area of cultivable waste land in Bengal which could be brought under food crops; and

(*ii*) what proportion of this area is suitable for the growth of paddy?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps Government have taken to ensure the growth of food crops on cultivable waste lands in Bengal?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain): (*a*) Cultivable waste land has been surveyed along with other lands in the course of survey and settlement operations. No separate survey has been made.

(*b*) The total area of cultivable waste land in Bengal is estimated at 37·25 lakhs of acres. Without a detailed survey it is not possible to say how much of this land can be brought under food crops or under paddy alone.

(*c*) Government have undertaken propaganda on a large scale both in urban and rural areas to induce the people to grow vegetables and quick-growing fruits on waste lands. Vegetable seeds have been distributed for the purpose. Besides, the Agricultural Development staff will see that waste lands let out for cultivation under waste land cultivation orders and railway surplus lands are all let out definitely for growing food and fodder crops.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: With reference to answer (*b*), we get from the Government reports very often that this much of waste lands has been brought under cultivation. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it has any basis?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: This was due to the fact that just before the Jute Regulation Act the jute area had increased tremendously and the rice area had fallen proportionately and owing to jute regulation half of that area again reverted to paddy. So including that it had reached very nearly this figure, but by deducting the jute area which has come back to paddy again, I find that only about 8 lakhs of acres have been brought under cultivation from waste lands.

Sj. MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us if, besides giving facilities in the form of distribution of vegetable seeds, etc., any other inducement or facilities are offered to those who are ready to cultivate waste lands?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Government is seriously thinking of granting subsidy to people for bringing waste lands under cultivation.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is Government aware that in low-lying areas in Eastern Bengal districts paddy cannot be grown because of flood and other reasons but after water subsides paddy cannot be grown for want of water?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Yes, I am aware that these lands can be brought under *rabi* crop.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us what steps Government have taken to bring those lands under cultivation?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: In those lands Government is seriously considering to put up bunds here and there and to build up reservoirs of water for *rabi*, *boro* and other crops.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us the method or machinery by which Government has arranged to check or verify the progress of the scheme of bringing waste lands under cultivation?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: It is for checking this particular thing that we have got the department staff who have been appointed just a month ago. They will be the persons who will be responsible and will actually check and report what area has actually been brought under cultivation.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us what is the percentage of these waste lands that has been brought under cultivation up till now?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: As I have said, it is only about 8 lakhs of acres.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the estimated amount Government intend to spend for this purpose?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: That will depend on the response we get from the public. If there is great demand, we will spend more and will come up for supplementary budget.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(answer to which was laid on the table)

Arrangement for teaching of Urdu in colleges of Bengal.

93. Dr. SANAULLAH: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state in how many—

(*i*) Government,

(*ii*) Government-aided, and

(*iii*) unaided

colleges in Bengal arrangements have been made for the teaching of Urdu as a Second Language in the I.A. and B.A. classes according to the New Regulations of the University of Calcutta?

(*b*) If no arrangement has yet been made, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of taking immediate steps for making such arrangements in the Government Colleges from the current session?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (*a*) (*i*) The Lady Brabourne College and the Bethune College, the former to the I.A. Standard and the latter to the B.A. Standard.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) None.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Urdu is taught in any other Government institution?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: No, Sir.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Why not?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: There has not been a sufficient demand as yet.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there are a number of students who are claiming to take up Urdu in their I.A. and B.A. classes, but they cannot take up because there is no arrangement?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I am not aware of that.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he will in future make arrangements for the introduction of Urdu in the I.A. and B.A. classes in Government colleges?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: As demand increases provision will be made.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Urdu can be taken by the students of Classes IX and X of schools as a basic subject?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Yes, Sir, as a second language Urdu can be taken.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: In view of the fact that many Bengalis and Bengali students cannot mix with up-country students because they do not know Urdu, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable that Government should take steps to initiate this subject in aided and non-aided colleges?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: So far as aided and non-aided colleges are concerned, Government cannot force them to introduce the subject, but as I have already stated, as demand grows, Government will introduce the subject in Government colleges.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

38—Medical.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 60,12,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "38—Medical".

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Mukherji, you will have three minutes' time.

Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJI: Is it humanly possible to move a motion in three minutes?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have tried for the last few days to arrange matters in consultation with the Whips, but unfortunately it so happened that the arrangement failed and to my mind it appears that the only course that I can possibly take is to act as I think proper, unless the Whips agree and see that the agreement is carried through. I have decided after going through the motions and also calculating the time at the disposal of the House that every mover of a cut motion will have three minutes' time and when a mover has got two motions almost alike, he will have five minutes' time for the two motions. This will be followed unless an agreement is reached between the Whips on the Government side and on the Opposition.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, we have seen that sometimes motions are not moved. We cannot now find out which motions may not be moved. If we can find out later that such and such motions will not be moved, then can we not add the time allotted for such motions to those motions which will be moved?

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot do it beforehand. I am also as ignorant as you are as to which motions may not be moved.

Alhadj GYASUDDIN AHMED CHOUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Khan Bahadur (pointing to Khan Bahadur A. F. M. Abdur Rahman who was sitting on the Opposition bench) is again sitting on the Opposition bench. The other day you ordered——

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you resume your seat? I ordered the members belonging to both sides to go to their respective seats. I said that I would not allow a Government member to remain on the Opposition side. I did that on that particular occasion, because that matter is still under discussion with the leaders. Until a final decision is reached I cannot order one way or the other. That is my difficulty.

Alhadj GYASUDDIN AHMED CHOUDHURY: Then, Sir, I can also go and sit on the other side.

Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as it is impossible to do justice to my motion in three minutes, I will not make any speech. I will only move.

Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 60,12,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about—

(*1*) the indifference of the Government to the requirements of the rural population in Bengal;

(2) inadequacy of supply of medicines and accessories in the sadar and subdivisional hospitals;

(3) mismanagement and inadequate supply of quinine to dispensaries (rural) and to general practitioners;

(4) misjudgment of putting inefficient men as Civil Surgeons in charge of districts;

(5) indifference and failure in the management and treatment of heavy rush of patients during the current general epidemics and famine.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Mukherji, as there are a large number of absentees, you go on. I will give you five minutes' time.

Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJI: Sir, out of the few important heads "Medical" comes next to "Food Supply" and "Agriculture". A man desires to live and to live a healthy life. Government's responsibility is equally serious in all the heads. But it is really very miserable to mention that the so-called benign Government is equally and permanently indifferent to its moral responsibility. Everywhere the major proportion of the population of the province lives in the rural area. Besides the district and the subdivisional towns, the rest of every district is absolutely uncared for. The life and death of the rural people depend entirely on their own fate. The district of Birbhum has a population of 1,100,000. The total number of dispensaries and hospitals is only about 33. If the dispensaries have been situated in equal distance, one of them would have been for about 34,000 people, which is a ridiculous absurdity. Most of the rural dispensary buildings are wretched in condition and more wretched are the stock of medicine, surgical instrument and other accessories. The medical officers serving under the district, local and union boards are very poorly paid and naturally they attend to their private practice to meet their demands. As a result of this their private patients use up the more useful medicine stocks depriving the poor for whom the charitable dispensaries are really meant. During the war-famine period almost all the districts of the province were ravaged with epidemics of malaria, cholera, diarrhœa, dysentery and beri-beri. Rural dispensaries were out of stock of medicines and naturally the destitutes and poor rural people died in millions unheeded, untreated, uncared for and untouched. Out of all, the most important drug quinine became a rarity without which no malaria cases could be treated. When Government came for rescue with the military medical units and some stock of quinine, the mischief was done and it was too late.

The epidemic diseases neither could be treated nor prevented for want of supply of preventible vaccines. I am a medical man and I have got personal experience of the whole affair. What I say is no exaggeration. It is a true picture of what actually happened in different districts in the recent epidemic. Whether in abnormal or normal times the indifference of the Government under the head "Medical" is equally acute and condemnable.

The condition of sadar and subdivisional dispensaries if one thinks to be good will be wrong. Poverty of drugs and implements are equally horrible everywhere. None of such dispensaries and hospitals is up to date only excepting three or four big districts. Regarding the actual condition

of Birbhum, I am reading out parts of a report which I received from the District Health Officer of Birbhum. He said "the number of deaths from beri-beri is not available because of the diagnosis of death made by the chowkidars; so the figure could not be recorded in the register". He also said "we were very much handicapped for non-receipt of anti-cholera vaccine during the months of August to October and had to send special messenger who returned with a poor response. Other drugs also did not arrive at the dispensaries due to railway booking difficulties from Messrs. B. K. Paul. Supply was actually regularised from the month of November onwards but the difficulty of obtaining Spirit Rectificatus, tincture iodine, etc., was solved in the latter part of February, 1944.

For the prevention of beri-beri my Sanitary Inspectors were preaching avoidance of mustard oil and for treatment every dispensary was supplied with iron, quinine, acid, phosh dil, Tr. Nux Vomica, etc. The supposed article was found out to be mustard oil adulterated with Argamoni seeds (Sialkata) which had toxic effect on the nerves and myocardine."

Herein I am giving a comparative death report in the district of Birbhum as recorded by the almighty chaukidar.

	Cholera.	Smallpox.	Malaria.	Total.
1942	553	151	7,766	22,773
1943	4,047	161	21,280	40,187

Deaths from beri-beri, other diseases and starvation have not been recorded as the expert chaukidars did not supply them. It is a pity that such statements do come smoothly from men of sense and of authority. I must say that the Government should be ashamed of such wise arrangements for securing the vital statistics of a province.

Supply of quinine which actually arrived late to private practitioners has been very inadequate and mismanaged. Sometimes stockist was selected from the private practitioners, sometimes a druggist, sometimes the Jail Medical Officer and last of all the Civil Surgeon. Medical officers had either to come themselves or send agents and dance attendance at the doors of different heads when they could secure some quinine after 36 or 48 hours. This is the true picture of the circumstances and efficient management of affairs through which the people of the mofussil area had to struggle for existence. Should this be a standard of civilized Government? May I not as a representative of the people ask once for all how long the bungling will go on?

As an insult to the injury over and above the indifference, negligence, inefficiency of the Provincial Government and black marketing and bungling, the Central India Drug Control Order of 11th November, 1943, has created a greater havoc in the medical world.

Annual licence fee has been levied as follows:—

	Calcutta.	Mofussil.
	Rs.	Rs.
Manufacturers	600	400
Importers	600	400
Wholesalers	600	400
Retailers	120 to 60	100 to 5 according to income tax paid.

Both as sellers and as purchasers the licence fee must be paid; else none will be permitted to maintain a dispensary.

A list fixing the price for European drugs has been published but very few copies are available. It is such a big list that it will be of no avail to the customers. Up till now, the prices of indigenous drugs have not been fixed. In the list the wholesale and retail prices have been fixed both for mofussil and towns like Bombay and Calcutta at equal rates. Nobody had the prudence to question even. how a pound of any drug could possibly be sold at the same rate in Calcutta and in distant mofussil area. The basic price of imported goods has been fixed in such a way that it will give better profits to the importers only. If this procedure continues black marketing is evidently to be increased. Short weight and adulteration of drugs will be encouraged. The Drug Act passed in the year 1940 should immediately be put into operation in order to prevent adulteration of drugs.

Lastly, I want to discuss about the selection of Civil Surgeons for the districts which has of late been very careless. In most of the places the Civil Surgeons in the districts are so inefficient that lots of medical and surgical cases with complications are refused admission and advised to go to big hospitals for proper treatment which they cannot do for want of funds and thereby die without treatment. Many surgical cases such as strangulated hernia and appendicitis and acute abdominal cases expire for not getting immediate treatment. It is desirable that only efficient men should be put in charge of the districts. Questions of seniority or service ratio rules must be kept aside in the medical service for the sake of life and death of the innocent people.

With these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 60,12,000 under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about the affairs of the Campbell Medical School of Calcutta and the Mitford Medical School of Dacca.

I beg also to move that the demand of Rs. 60,12,000 under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about the question of the establishment of a College of Pharmacy.

Sir, you know the Science of Pharmacy is intimately related to the Science of Medicine and the practice of pharmacy is an integral part of the practice of medicine. In most advanced countries both these sciences and practice have progressed *pari passu*. But in Bengal while the science and profession of medicine have made rapid strides in recent times, the science and profession of pharmacy are lagging far behind. Pharmacy has not been allowed to play the very important role allotted to it in all progressive countries, viz., checking spurious drugs trade and preventing adulteration of drugs besides opening a decent and respectable career for the youth of the country. This could be done only if necessary steps were taken to impart training in pharmacy on a scientific basis, but to our misfortune nothing has been done so far in this direction. At present what we have in Bengal by way of pharmacy training is the training of mere "compounders" carried on in some of the medical schools of the province in a most perfunctory manner. These training centres, as pointed out by the Drugs Enquiry Committee (1929) are not well equipped and cannot possibly

undertake the training of the superior grade of pharmacists, capable of undertaking the manufacture, handling, compounding and dispensing of drugs and chemicals and also performance of all kinds of analysis and assay. They turn out mere assistants called "compounders" intended to play the second fiddle to medical men as their mixture makers, surgical assistants, dressers and anæsthetists. In 1933 on the representation of the All-Bengal Compounders' Association now called the Bengal Pharmaceutical Association the State Medical Faculty of Bengal appointed a sub-committee to revise the syllabus of these pharmacy training classes. The said committee drew up a revised syllabus and recommended its adoption to the Government, but it has received a silent burial in the forgotten files of the Bengal Secretariat. In January, 1938, Dr. B. E. Anklesaria of Ahmedabad offered the Government a donation of Rs. 2 lakhs for the establishment of a College of Pharmacy in Bengal on certain conditions. The Government appointed a Committee of experts to go into the questions of the necessity and costs of such an institution. The Committee made a thorough examination of the questions, drew up a proper scheme and recommended an immediate acceptance of the scheme and the offer to work out the scheme. Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur of Dacca, who was Minister in charge of Local Self-Government and Public Health in 1941-42, made the following statement in his budget speech the same year with reference to the aforesaid offer and the scheme: "There is another scheme of over-reaching importance—I refer to the establishment of a College of Pharmacy. A generous donation of approximately two lakhs of rupees has been offered towards the establishment of such a college. The conditions for training dispensers are far from satisfactory and it is not only necessary that the training of the present day compounders should be improved but it is essential to institute an advanced system of training in pharmacy. The reorganisation of the pharmaceutical profession and development of pharmacy will tend to develop the vast drug resources of the country and will also advance industrial development". From the above Ministerial utterance one might think that the scheme of a College of Pharmacy on modern lines would materialise before long. But the political chaos and turmoil of subsequent years killed this beneficent scheme among others. Let us hope not without any hope of resurrection. In an abnormal situation like the present when the province finds itself struggling in the grip of pestilence and death without any medical treatment worth the name for want of necessary medicines, what a boon a well-equipped College of Pharmacy might be towards the alleviation of the sufferings of the people today! I am inclined to think that the Government would be well advised to take up the scheme immediately without putting it in cold storage in the *mamuli* way for the duration of the war.

I would conclude my observations by quoting the following few lines from the Report of the College of Pharmacy Committee, 1938-39. The Report says, "In almost all the civilised countries separate pharmacy colleges exist and their sphere of usefulness is sufficiently well recognised. We do not see any reason why Bengal, the premier province in India, and surely the leading province in the drug manufacturing industry should not have her own college of pharmacy through the generous offer of

Dr. Anklesaria and as an opportunity has presented itself no time should be wasted in giving a concrete shape to the generous proposal. All our expert witnesses representing the various shades of opinion of the pharmacy profession, trade and industry are emphatic in their demand for such an institution. We fully subscribe to this view and we are unanimously of opinion that Government should approach the question of establishment of a College of Pharmacy in right earnest and that too immediately." Sir, I hope these words, this unanimous opinion of the Committee would not go in vain. We hope before long the scheme of a College of Pharmacy in Bengal would materialise. I must also say in this connection that besides a College of Pharmacy on modern western lines a College of Pharmacy for indigenous drugs should be started as soon as possible.

Before I conclude, Sir, I wish to mention the state of affairs in the Campbell Medical School in Calcutta and the Mitford Medical School at Dacca. The recent students discontent in the Campbell Medical School has proved beyond any doubt that there is something wrong in the State of Denmark. It is not merely for the fun of it that the students have gone on strike from year to year. I am inclined to believe that at least in one respect the students have a genuine grievance, namely, the quality of teaching imparted has been affected by too many and too frequent transfers in this school. In Dacca there is hardly one good teacher worth the name who can be relied upon for imparting true medical education to students. I would request the Government to see to it that education in these two institutions is not altogether disturbed by too frequent transfers though it may be called upon by the exigencies of the situation.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motions to the acceptance of the House.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 60,12,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমি আমার নামে যে motion আছে তাহা move করিতেছি। মেডিকাল বিভাগের ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী মহোদয় ৬০,১২,০০০৲ টাকা ব্যয়বরাদ্দের মঞ্জুরী চাহিয়াছেন, কিন্তু এই ব্যয়বরাদ্দ মঞ্জুরের পূর্ব্বে আমি এসেমব্লির সভ্য মহোদয় ও মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের নিকট পাড়াগাঁয়ে যে সমস্ত হাসপাতাল আছে তাদের দুর্দ্দশার কথা বর্ণনা করিয়া হাসপাতালগুলির উন্নতির জন্য মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করিতে চাই। পাড়াগাঁয়ের লোক সাধারণতঃ দরিদ্র, তাহারা অনেকে খাইতেই পায় না, তার উপর রোগ হইলে ঔষধ কিনিবে কি করিয়া? সুতরাং পাড়াগাঁয়ের হাসপাতালে দরিদ্রদিগকে বিতরণের জন্য সর্ব্বদা ঔষধ মজুদ থাকা দরকার, কিন্তু দুঃখের সহিত বলিতে হইতেছে অধিকাংশ মফঃস্বলের হাসপাতালেই ঔষধপত্র নাই। ডাক্তারগণ পুনঃ পুনঃ requisition করিয়াও গভর্ণমেণ্ট হইতে নূতন ঔষধের supply পান না।

এখানে আমি চট্টগ্রাম জেলার বৈলচরি হাসপাতালটীর কথা বিশেষ করিয়া উল্লেখ করিতে চাই। বৈলচরি দাতব্য চিকিৎসালয়টী চট্টগ্রাম জেলার একটা শ্রেষ্ঠ হাসপাতাল। ঐ হাসপাতাল নির্ম্মাণ বিষয়ে S. D. O. মহোদয় আমাকে অনুরোধ করিয়া বলেন—আপনি যদি হাসপাতালের বাড়ীটা ভাল করিয়া তৈরী করিবার ব্যবস্থাটা করেন তাহা হইলে গভর্ণমেণ্ট হইতে উপযুক্ত সাহায্য দেওয়া যাইবে। আমি বিশেষ চেষ্টা করিয়া সে কাজটা করিয়া দিয়াছি; কিন্তু

দুঃখের বিষয় আজ পর্য্যন্তও উক্ত হাসপাতালে কোন রকম অর্থ সাহায্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট হইতে দেওয়া হয় নাই। আশা করি গভর্ণমেণ্ট হইতে যত শীঘ্র সম্ভব ঐ প্রতিশ্রুত টাকাটা দিয়া আমাদের দেশের গরীব লোকদের প্রাণ রক্ষার উপায় করিবেন। তাদের অর্থ নিয়ে ছিনিমিনি খেলিবেন না।

এই সঙ্গে আর একটা কথা বলিতেছি, চট্টগ্রামে এখন চাউলের দর ৩০৲ টাকা মণ। যে সমস্ত চাষীর নিকট ধান্য ছিল, সে সমস্ত ধান্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট লইয়া গিয়াছেন। তাহা গরীবদের মধ্যে দেওয়া হয় নাই। এ বিষয়ে আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টের supply office ও medical বিভাগ উভয়কেই অনুরোধ করছি তারা যেন পল্লীবাসীর মধ্যে যাহাতে অনাহারে থাকার দরুণ রোগ বৃদ্ধি না পায় সেই জন্য অবস্থাটার বিশেষ প্রতিকার করেন। আমি সঙ্গে সঙ্গে আরো বলিতেছি (At this stage the red light was lit.)

Mr. SPEAKER: আপনি থামুন,

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 60,12,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100. Sir, I move this motion to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to introduce the Homeopathic system of treatment in this province during the present scarcity of Allopathic medicines.

Sir, I do not wish to inflict any speech but I want an answer as to what Government proposes to do in this matter.

Rai Bahadur JOGESH CHANDRA SEN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 60,12,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100. Sir, I move this motion to raise a discussion about the want of any provision for Ayurvedic and other indigenous system of treatment and education.

I beg also to move that the demand be reduced by Rs. 100 and in doing so I want to raise a discussion about not providing any grant for the General Council and State Faculty of Ayurvedic Medicine, Bengal.

Sir, the present world war has placed us in a helpless position in many ways and supply of medicine is one of them. By negligence and indifference the indigenous system of treatment has been pushed to the background, specially in Bengal, while other countries are going ahead. Here the Government is totally apathetic. For the first time in the year 1939 the Ayurvedic system got some recognition and a State Faculty of Ayurvedic System of Medicine was established but without any grant whatsoever to support it. Registration fee was introduced but as no rights and privileges were given to the Ayurvedic system, in spite of repeated representations, and demands Kavirajes are not asking for renewals of registration and the State Faculty therefore is in a moribund condition. No amount has been set apart for stipend and not a farthing has been set apart for research works.

Sir, while the scientists of the medical world are anxiously making researches to get as much as possible out of the ayurvedic system of medicine, this country which is the proud custodian of that science is lying in deep slumber. This is the fruit of foreign domination and slavery. It is known to many that tuberculosis is curable by Ayurvedic system of treatment. Kaviraj Jamini Bhusan Roy started a tuberculosis hospital with 50 beds at Patipukur but this Government never cared to enquire about it, never

cared to contribute a rupee even towards maintenance of this big hospital. Only the Corporation of Calcutta is doing all that is possible and the people of Bengal are grateful to the Corporation of Calcutta for its valuable support and sympathy.

Sir, I have no time to go into the details and I will now place before the House some facts to show what other provinces are doing for Ayurvedic system of medicines, Ayurvedic education and charitable institutions. Sir, the Governments of other provinces are doing whatever is possible for them but the Government of Bengal do not spend a pie. For Ayurvedic educational system Madras Government spends Rs. 79,000 annually; the United Provinces spend Rs. 1,08,000 annually; the Bihar Government spends Rs. 33,500; the Bombay Government spends Rs. 50,000, and Bengal Government spends not a farthing.

For hospitals and dispensaries Madras Government spends Rs. 68,000 yearly, the United Provinces spends Rs. 49,500 yearly, Bombay spends Rs. 50,000 yearly and, Sir, Bengal spends not a farthing.

For maintenance of Ayurvedic Council Madras Government pays the entire cost and the United Provinces pays Rs. 10,000 annually and Bengal, Sir, pays not a farthing.

In addition to this Madras Government pays subsidies to its Ayurvedic practitioners and Kavirajes get employment under the Government and they are also fully recognised and supported by other Governments. Should not the Bengal Government hang down its head in shame for its apathy and for its utter indifference and negligence? We want to know clearly from the Hon'ble Minister in charge if he proposes to go ahead and do all that is needful in this matter. I know the Hon'ble Minister is sympathetic but lip sympathy won't do; something tangible must be done. A day will soon come when Ayurvedic system will be recognised as the best form of treatment in this world and Unani system will get recognition. This ought to be the post-war policy. I may say that world will get this boon from free India in no distant date.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motions for acceptance of the House.

Mr. RADHANATH DAS: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 60,12,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the Government's lack of policy in maintaining and improving the tuberculosis hospitals in Bengal.

Now, Sir, from the very motion it will be quite evident that Government are not practically taking as much care as they ought to have done so far as these hospitals which are now in existence in Bengal are concerned. From the point of view of this disease I have seen that there is only one tuberculosis hospital in Calcutta—not properly in Calcutta of course, 5 miles away from Calcutta, that is, at Jadavpur—that is the Jadavpur Tuberculosis Hospital, and there is another sanatorium in Kurseong. Considering the importance of this disease, so far as I have been able to learn, Government are practically quite indifferent so far as grants, that may be given to these two institutions, are concerned.

What I have seen in the Jadavpur Hospital is this. Its condition is very precarious. I have seen there that for cabin purposes they have constructed cabins for patients out of bus bodies. I think you have followed what I mean. I mean the bus bodies without their propelling engines and the four wheels. They have taken out of the chassis, and cabins are being constructed out of those bus bodies. I have practically now forgotten the number of such cabins, but there are several cabins of this kind in the Jadavpur Tuberculosis Hospital. There is considerable dearth of accommodation so far as providing beds to patients is concerned. So I would request the Hon'ble Minister concerned that he should see that the grievances of the Jadavpur Tuberculosis Hospital be remedied altogether.

From the present budget I have found that Government have provided for anti-tuberculosis scheme an amount of Rs. 10,000 and for Tuberculosis Association Rs. 17,500. Now, Sir, I request the Government through you to consider whether they have properly looked into this affair by granting only this paltry sum considering the importance and vastness of this tuberculosis disease.

I have gone through the report of the year 1942 about the two institutions —the Jadavpur Tuberculosis Hospital and the S. B. Dey Sanatorium at Kurseong—and what I have been able to understand is this: that Government at one time, perhaps in the year 1942, had sanctioned a recurring grant of Rs. 30,000 or something like that, but I do not find that amount this year. Of course I speak subject to correction. I want to know from the Government whether Government have stopped that grant being given to the Jadavpur Tuberculosis Hospital, and how far Government should take into consideration the grievances of these two institutions—the hospital at Jadavpur and the sanatorium at Kurseong. At Jadavpur there are only 238 beds. A large number of patients are coming for admission to these hospitals but due to want of accommodation the authority concerned, namely, the Calcutta Medical Aid and Relief Society who is now in charge of that tuberculosis hospital and sanatorium which are now practically full, refused admission to the patients into the hospital. Now, Sir, the toll of lives that this deadly and dangerous disease is taking is not at all an insignificant number. So, considering from the point of view of vastness of the subject, I would request the Hon'ble Minister concerned and through you, Sir, all members who are supporting the Government that they should press the Government, so that Government may be compelled to make adequate provision as the subject-matter necessities.

Now, Sir, so far as I have been able to understand from one of my friends, Mr. Sen, that the last Government raised the grant under this head from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 80,000 for free beds in Jadavpur, but for the year 1944-45 as I have already mentioned Government have sanctioned only Rs. 10,000 on anti-tuberculosis schemes and Rs. 17,500 for the Tuberculosis Association to tackle this disease, which is a very paltry sum.

With these words, Sir, I request the Hon'ble Minister to accept my motion.

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I find in the budget a provision for Rs. 3 lakhs for the treatment of venereal disease. A few clinics have been opened in the city of Calcutta and arrangements for the

treatment of patients have been made. Sir, this is a very necessary step, and I think that similar arrangement should be made in Bengal all over the mofussil areas. At least every subdivision in the mofussil should get one clinic, and these diseases which are ruining the nation should be fought with all vigour.

Sir, I ask Government to go some steps further in order completely to eradicate this ruinous disease. Government must not be satisfied with this tinkering step only. They must attack the problem at its very root, namely, the prostitution in this country which is the breeding ground of these diseases. It should be tabooed and banished altogether. Unless that is done I am very doubtful whether any satisfactory result will follow from this step. Sir, in this connection, Government will have to do many other things such as introduction of timely and early marriages, prohibition of marriage of diseased persons till they are radically cured, and the promotion of the health and physique of our young generation. We find, Sir, that the Presidency General Hospital absorbs an amount of Rs. 21 lakhs in the budget, whereas hospitals in the mofussil only get Rs. 5 lakhs. I think that more hospitals should be opened in the mofussil areas to benefit the rural people. Through the opening of 700 emergency hospitals, the rural people are getting some benefit. Most of these hospitals have been attached to dispensaries. I ask Government to maintain those emergency hospitals for ever and by all means. It should be a permanent feature of the medical department to guarantee the minimum benefit to which the rural people are entitled. At least the 20 bedded hospitals which have been opened attached to the dispensaries in the mufassal should be retained and should be wound up after a time as proposed in scheme.

Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had no intention to take part in this debate but for the fact that my honourable friend Mr. Atul Chadra Sen has thought it fit by his cut motion No. 5 to introduce a discussion with regard to the affairs of the Campbell Medical School and the Mitford School in Calcutta and Dacca respectively.

Now, Sir, we have seen that it has been a fashion of late to ventilate grievances of this character on the floor of this House. I do not know for what purpose, but it seems to me that it has become a fashion. Sir, these two institutions are not ordinary schools, but they are intended to train up young men to take up duties of a very heavy and humanitarian character after they have finished their school career. I am not quite sure about the internal affairs of the Mitford Hospital at Dacca though I had an occasion to pay a visit to the hospital and school sometime ago. But I know something about the affairs of the Campbell Medical School in the suburbs of this town. Years back, I had occasion to sit as a member of the committee for the purpose of selecting boys for admission in the school so that they might go through the course in this school and come out as medical men. I shall not go into the activities of some of the intending candidates for admission into this school and of schools of this type, but when they are admitted, it is unfortunate that they forget their natural and moral responsibility as students of these very respectable schools to themselves and to their teachers. Sir, I do not know what the grievances of the student community in general and the students of this particular school are, for my friend

Mr. Sen did not say anything about them. He only mentioned that the grievances of the student community should be looked into and that the teaching in this institution should also be looked into. I am not quite sure what is meant by either of them, for we know that Government as it is functioning in this province today is not composed of technical medical men. They can only lay down a policy and direct the activities of such institutions, but the management and guidance of internal affairs must be left to the heads of those institutions.

As regards the arrangement of internal affairs of such institutions Government cannot but look to the advice of their best expert and adviser on the subject, I mean the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bengal. With regard to these affairs, I am sure that they depend on his advice as to who the teachers ought to be, who should be posted to this school so that the teaching in such a school is properly directed. As regards the internal affairs, we must leave them to him, so that nothing goes wrong about the internal management of the school.

Now, Sir, about the incidents which happened a few months ago, these are very unfortunate, namely, that when some of the students went on strike, the rest of the students out of sympathy for them followed suit. *Communiqué* after *communiqué* was issued by the Government of Bengal to explain the whole situation. It so happened that some of the students approached the Surgeon-General who was good enough to ask them to send two of their boys who were most familiar with the affairs of the school, so that he could give them a hearing for the purpose of coming to a conclusion and take such steps as were necessary in the matter. That was not followed, but some other step was taken. Some of the students approached the Hon'ble Chief Minister. They were there before the office of the Chief Minister in a large number when a fracas took place between the students and the Police on duty on the first floor of the Writers' Buildings. If these are the grievances of students I should say that the sooner such students are called upon to leave the institutions the better for everybody concerned. We have also seen that as a result of the strike in the Campbell Medical School the students of this school approached the students of other colleges as well and some of the latter did go on strike out of sympathy. A few weeks ago I had an opportunity to pass the University buildings where I found some students posting placards on the walls asking the students of the University College (Post-graduate classes) to go on strike out of sympathy. Well, Sir, if these are the grievances I should expect that nothing of this nature should have been mentioned on the floor of the House but that the matter should have been placed before the head of the institution and the head of the department who are best judges on the subject. The other day we read of an incident in the newspapers where the supervising officer who was in charge of conducting the Matriculation Examination at Gopalganj was stabbed at night by some students because he had asked them to leave the hall when they were found to be taking unfair means. A few weeks ago I came to know of another incident which took place at Bagerhat where some of the students belaboured the Principal of the College because he had the misfortune to turn out some students from the Test Examination Hall who were found to be taking unfair means. I am

afraid that if things like that happen in educational institutions the sooner they are turned out by the heads of institutions the better it will be for all concerned. At any rate these incidents should not have been mentioned on the floor of the House.

With these few words, I oppose the cut motions.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I rise to make a few observations on the Medical budget more with a view to invite the attention of the Ministry to certain directions in which reforms are overdue than with a view to criticise the abuses and corrupt methods of some of their officers as in other departments. Sir, on various previous occasions I had the honour to suggest that Bengal requires much greater attention to be paid to medical relief and expansion of medical institutions, but I have not always received a very sympathetic and favourable reply. I am glad to find that today in the wake of famine and diseases following the same Government have at last been alive to the urgency of expanding medical relief in the province. But yet, Sir, I submit that the directions in which the Government are moving leave very little hope for any quick and substantial expansion of relief that is very much wanted.

The root of all the evils lies in the unfortunate selection of incompetent and often unworthy men in the medical college and in other teaching institutions of this city. Sir, in the Calcutta Medical College there are two classes of persons who receive Government favour. One is the Europeans who are always the upper dogs, and the other is a certain class of communally selected persons. I do not want to suggest for one moment that there are not sufficient competent or capable Muslims to hold important posts in the Medical Department. But, Sir, the manner in which the Government are trying to reserve technical posts and teaching posts merely for members of a particular community leave us wondering about Government's intentions, because we feel that irrespective of qualifications, irrespective of communal attachments such techincal posts should go to the best men available in the Province.

While on this I am free to admit that there are a number of very good and capable Muslims also. I have particularly in view the Professor of Jurisprudence who has proved himself a remarkably good teacher. He is a Muslim. I have also in view the professor of Ophthalmology who is also a very capable person.

On the other hand, I have to submit with all humility that the new officiating Professor of Clinical Medicine who has been a temporary hand has been given charge of this important position of Professor of Medicine without having any qualification worthy of the post. He has neither the skill nor the experience nor the delivery of a teacher. (Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: He is an experienced teacher. He has two years' experience.) Only two years' experience to hold the important post of Professor of Medicine in the Medical College of Calcutta! It is said that he has got two years' experience and that too in the Campbell Medical School. He was merely a junior physician who has been forced up as the Professor of Medicine for the time being and I do not know why in the Calcutta Medical College——

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: This is Congress.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The Congress does not stand for technical posts being given on communal considerations, and I am sure when my friends opposite would be ill they will not get themselves treated by this particular man of their own community. They will go to the best man to get their lives saved. Sir, I submit, it will be a disaster not merely to Hindus but to Muslims as well not to have the best possible teaching arrangements in a medical institution. I understand and I have seen that in the *Calcutta Gazette* the post of Professor of Clinical Surgery is also advertised for Muslims only. I do not for a moment doubt the necessity of balancing appointments on the Communal Ratio Service Rules. I am prepared to concede that much but there are other ways of doing the same. If for a technical post of that character by virtue of qualification when you select you find that a person of another community has to be chosen you can counterbalance the same with some administrative post elsewhere where qualifications of a technical nature may not be so much necessary and where a person of another community will be most welcome. I submit that in this manner the communal ratio can be maintained and be maintained and yet, Sir, we can secure the best men technically qualified to hold important jobs.

Then, Sir, I find that there is undue favouritism shown to certain European Professors of the Medical profession. I would repeat what I said several times in this House that you are showing favouritism to Colonel Anderson who is (for all the information that I have in my possession and I suppose like many members of Government this time there will be no attempt on the part of the Hon'ble Minister to say that my information is not based on adequate grounds) not regular in his attendance. He does not take clinics and very often he rushes about without giving more than half an hour's time to the Calcutta Medical College. Even on the day when there was bombing in Calcutta he was not available although it was his duty to be at the post when there was bombing. Such things are happening. For months together Colonel Anderson could not touch a patient because he had some kind of eczema on his hand and he had to put on his gloves. As he had to put on gloves he could not operate on any patient because he was suffering from some disease himself. Colonel Anderson had retired. I understand that there is some attempt to reinstate him or to give him a further new appointment in the post although he is incapable, and negligent—he has been systematically negligent—in his duties at the Medical College.

There is also another officer who is the Superintendent of the Medical College Hospital, Colonel Murray, whose bad name and whose rash and neglectful conduct in the discharge of his duties are universally admitted. During his regime the hospital has been reduced to a most abominable depot of incompetent persons and indisciplined lot of professors, teachers and hospital assistants. The students complain, the teachers complain, the professors complain, the doctors complain that this Colonel Murray has brought the whole Medical College Hospital to ruin, a doctor—I will not go very far—who does not know what a T.B. patient is like. The other day the Calcutta Chief Presidency Magistrate's office had to send an orderly to him for examination and he was passed by Colonel Murray as O. K. and

recommended that he should be given an extension of service in his job. The man was suffering from tuberculosis of both the lungs, and Colonel Murray passed him as fit to carry on Government service. The Chief Presidency Magistrate saw the absurdity of it and said, "Never mind the opinion of the doctor. I cannot have you in my office."

Sir, such things are happening from day to day. The hospital diet is unsatisfactory, attendance is poor and there is no regular attendance of the physicians and surgeons. Further, Sir, this Superintendent peremptorily asks the patients who are on the way to recovery to be turned out of beds, saying that this is not a charitable institution—a refuge—where people can be kept for a long time; and the patients who are on the way to recovery are thrown into the streets and they suffer terribly.

Sir, there is also another class of people who cannot maintain the high reputation of the Calcutta Medical College because they have to look up for favours from higher authorities. There is the present Resident Physician: he is a good man, too good to assert himself. He has to look up to Colonel Murray for recommendation. He cannot take in any patient into the hospital although he is next in office, because he thinks that orders must be taken from above. There are also similar other men. The whole atmosphere has been so demoralised that they look up to higher and still higher people in the discharge of their own duties.

In the Campbell Medical School the position had deteriorated to such an extent during the last few months that the students had to go on strike as a protest, and I am in a position to acknowledge that since then Government's attention has been invited to the state of affairs there, and some attempt has been made to improve the teaching at that place.

Sir, there are other grievances which have still not been attended to, and it is atrocious that the Hon'ble Minister's deputy made a statement in this House on a previous occasion which, to say the least, was far from the truth. Sir, I will not remain on this point any longer because the whole world knows, the newspapers and the public outside know whether there had been any agitation in the student world and what were the complaints of the students. I leave my statement made in this House to be judged by persons outside who have been directly in the know of all these difficulties.

Sir, I would invite the attention of the Government also to the deplorable state of affairs that is existing and is still continuing in the mofussil hospitals. Various speakers before me have also placed their views in that connection. The state of affairs there is so hopeless that patients cannot get any treatment worth the name. Medicines are not available: doctors with very inadequate qualifications are now increasingly being placed in charge of important work; and although there has recently been a policy of inviting some local practitioners to be associated as honorary surgeons and physicians in the sadar hospitals in the mofussil, that policy has not borne fruit to the extent it was expected. Mofussil hospitals, in particular, require very great attention.

So far as Calcutta is concerned, there are large number of beds still lying unattended to. Although the Hon'ble Minister in charge some time ago assured us that the beds which were formerly kept reserved for

emergency would now be gradually released for enabling patients to get treated in the hospital, still there are a large number of beds which have not yet been properly made open to the members of the community. I would invite attention particularly to the case of the Lungs Department of the Medical College. The Lungs Department has got two sections: the indoor is practically closed, and the outdoor also does not attend to patients. The students of the Medical College who are to be trained in diseases like tuberculosis, do not get any opportunity to see tubercular patients either outdoor or indoor. I do not know how they will be in a position to treat such fell diseases when they come out of the hospital. When I asked an eminent doctor "what is the state of affairs there now and how the students utilise the time allotted for them to be trained in these two branches?" he said, "it is practically a 'Hari Ghosh's Goyal'. They go, have tea, and smoke, and then come away."

Sir, this is what is happening in the Calcutta Medical College. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to look into these grievances more carefully.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry I have not got enough time to reply to all the cut motions that have been moved, and within the short space of time allotted to me it will not be possible for me to do full justice to the debate on the Medical budget. Sir, I will only confine myself to the specific points that have been raised in connection with the cut motions and to the questions of interest which require attention. I am grateful to honourable members who have shown their sympathy for the activities of the Medical Department. Most of the motions that have been moved are in sympathy with the department and the debate is conspicuous by the absence of any bitter criticism of the department. This is a department which can really claim to be free from party spirit. I understand that it is the desire of all sections of the House that medical relief in Bengal should be improved to such an extent that it may bring relief to the 60 millions of people of Bengal. Sir, Government has been aware and has been fully aware of the position revealed by the famine and the aftermath of famine so far as medical relief is concerned. Honourable members are no doubt aware of the fact that in the past scanty sums of money were doled out for the nation-building departments including the Medical and Public Health Department, and there was no serious agitation even in the Assembly or in the old Council for increasing the voted demand under "Medical" and other heads of the nation-building departments. Even there was no agitation on the part of the medical associations or medical men so as to compel Government to give their earnest attention to this department with the result that the Medical Department has been starved for a long time. In those days major heads like "General Administration", etc., which has a political bearing, used to get much more than what they deserved. In those days also the Bengal budget was a deficit budget and the policy of Government was that of balancing the budget and whenever the question of balancing the budget arose the medical, public health and education budgets were generally starved and money was squeezed out from those heads and transferred to other heads like the "Police" and the "General Administration". It must be admitted therefore that in a way the famine and its aftermath has come also as a blessing to the people and

to Government because it has roused the consciousness of them both for they have brought out too conspicuously to all sections of people and to all sections of the House that Bengal not only requires food and cloths today but she also very badly requires medical relief and it is now quite apparent to all that in order to do justice to the cause of medical relief adequate provision should be made in the Medical Budget.

Bengal requires not only food, not only clothing but also medical relief for the strength and health of the people of the province. For this reason I say without any fear of contradiction that this Government has been alive from the very beginning with regard to this medical relief and did visualise from before—as far back as September, 1943—that there would be some calamity regarding health also. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Still your department was sleeping all the time when the people died.) No. There was famine going on and we tried to relieve matters in regard to medical relief. In October I myself had been to Delhi. I appealed to other provinces for doctors and nurses and also asked our district officers to do as much as possible for medical relief without even caring what amount would be required and they were authorized to spend as much as possible. After that we have been trying our best to increase the number of medical officers and give other facilities. So, this Government has never been lethargic in combating either malaria or smallpox or cholera. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Question.) My friend Dr. Sanyal puts a question. I can say without fear of contradiction from the mortality figures that have been revealed that we have been so successful in combating cholera that it has almost come to a standstill and malaria has been checked to a great extent. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: After men died!) It is not unprecedented in Bengal that even an entire district has been decimated by malaria and other epidemic diseases. It is for the first time that this problem has been tackled very seriously by this Government. I should say that this Government can claim credit for that in the annals of Bengal which was lacking in any other administration before.

Sir, with regard to the motions that have been tabled for the failure of the Government in combating and so on, there is one of Dr. Mukherji. I should say that I shall take his speech in a friendly spirit. What the Opposition members think is that Government have succeeded and they only want that Government should do more. That Government have succeeded in combating malaria and cholera is now evident from the reports that we are getting from the mofussil. (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Bengal is malaria-free today!) Bengal is not free from malaria, even India is not free. Malaria is such a scourge that it will not be eliminated unless you raise their standard of living. Unfortunately the standard of living in Bengal is very low. There is very little vitality left to the people. Malaria is a disease of the poor and India is so poor that her people will die of malaria is no wonder. This Government is trying to improve the vitality of the people and it has tackled this malaria problem as far as funds permit.

Sir, I should be surprised if the Opposition would not give credit to this Government for the work that they have done in this direction.

Sir, the normal demand of quinine in Bengal is 90,000 lbs. It was further reduced by the fall of Java and other places, but this Government has got an allotment of 1,900,000 lbs. of quinine. Excepting 8 lakhs the

rest has been sent to mofussil districts and now there is no complaint in the mofussil districts or anywhere that they are not getting quinine. Of course, there had been restriction before but now there is free distribution of quinine and it is not restricted to medical practitioners only. The District Magistrate has been made responsible for distributing it through reliable people, primary school teachers and union board dispensaries.

So far as provision of medical relief is concerned, Government has done a good deal and is trying to do more.

As regards the specific questions raised by the cut motions, I remember one is tuberculosis hospitals, another is the indigenous Ayurvedic and Unani system of medicine, the third is Homeopathy, the fourth is College of Pharmacy and the fifth is Campbell Hospital. With regard to grants to union board charitable dispensaries and sadar and other mofussil hospitals, the reply has been furnished by my esteemed friend Mr. Mullick and I need not dilate on that.

Sir, I will first take up tuberculosis. Complaints have been made that this is really a fell disease and this should be combated and sufficient provision should be made. This House is aware that the Government is not less anxious than the honourable members of the Opposition. Government were in quest for a climatic sanatorium for a long time. It has really undergone changes from time to time and it related to several Governments and several experts. The difficulty was that the donation had a condition precedent before Government could take it and in accordance with that condition no site could be selected. One site was selected somewhere and then an expert committee said it was no good. In this way it has gone on for several years. Afterwards, I should say, we have been able to select a site temporarily at Amulia in Burdwan. Difficulties are great because the war is on and it will be difficult to give effect to that scheme.

Sir, in this connection I cannot but remember Sir John Herbert who was very anxious to see that this scheme was given effect to before he went out of office. I am sorry he is no more. At any rate, this Government remembers his anxiety and it will carry out this scheme as soon as funds permit.

Now, there are at present two hospitals, both under the same management —one is the Jadavpur Hospital and the other is the S. B. Dey Sanitarium at Kurseong. A complaint has been made that provision has not been made for the Jadavpur Hospital. This Jadavpur Hospital has been given a capital grant of about Rs. 3 lakhs and Rs. 1,000 per bed was allotted for a time. It was at first Rs. 10,000 and it was raised to Rs. 30,000 for the accommodation of 30 beds and since then it has been raised to Rs. 80,000 making a provision for the accommodation of 80 beds and recently only two or three days before—we have given Rs. 28,000 for extra cost required for maintaining beds, over and above the allotment of Rs. 1,000 per bed.

So far as the S. B. Dey Sanitarium is concerned, we have given them a site of 28 acres. We have also paid them annual rent at the rate of Rs. 437.

There is another tuberculosis hospital and there also we have given Rs. 2,050 in 1940 and in 1943-44 Rs. 21,000. (Rai Bahadur JOGESH CHANDRA SEN: What about the Patipukur Ayurvedic Tuberculosis Hospital?) There is no provision for the Ayurvedic Tuberculosis Hospital.

Sir, with regard to the introduction of Ayurvedic and indigenous systems of treatment and education, I am very thankful to my honourable friend Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra Sen that he has raised this question. We are alive to this question and, as a matter of fact, I can tell the House that we have got a Postwar Reconstruction Committee and in the sub-committee of that Committee of which I am the Chairman there are medical men. I myself tried to get eminent Ayurvedic and Unani specialists to help me just to tackle this problem as to how far these systems can be given effect to side by side with Allopathy. My friend has complained that no grant has been made. No grant has been made, because no grant has been asked for. But still I may say that we gave Rs. 1,000 for their help. We also gave Rs. 4,000 to the Unani medical faculty and for the Ayurvedic faculty we have provided all facilities, viz., we have defrayed their cost of election and the result was published in the "Calcutta Gazette" free of cost. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Great generosity! What is the money value of that generosity? You ought to be ashamed.) Dr. Sanyal, you ought to realise that it is not a question of shame, it is a question of credit, because we have provided money although no money has been asked for. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is a State faculty.) Dr. Sanyal, you will be surprised to know that these indigenous faculties have not been properly started, they have not done anything, they have not shown any tangible result. So Government has nothing to be ashamed of.

Then comes the question of Homeopathic faculty. Government has already recognised Homeopathic as a State faculty. This has been done not in my time but previously. So at the present moment there is no bar to Homeopathic treatment; on the other hand this system is being encouraged and, as a matter of fact, it is very popular in the countryside. There are also some districts which have already adopted Homeopathic system of treatment and they have also started some dispensaries with Homeopathic medicines. (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: What about the establishment of a College of Pharmacy?)

Mr. Sen, I can assure you that I am very much alive to the question raised by you. I fully agree with the remarks that you have made with regard to the establishment of a College of Pharmacy. But the difficulty is that the standard of medicines prepared by Indian Pharmacies is always complained of by the foreigners and by the British medical men. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is in their own interest to do so.) Not only that, even Indian doctors, and I say this from my personal experience, will not select Bengal Pharmacy drugs if they get drugs prepared by the British firms of reputation like Parke Davis. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: As a Minister you should not advertise any firm. Don't mention the name of any firm.) I am quite aware that the point raised by Mr. Sen is a very important one, but what I want to say is that the standard of medicines prepared in India is not always preferred by all the Indian people. With regard to the establishment of a College of Pharmacy the only movement that was made was in 1938-39. I am aware that Dr. Anklesaria made a donation of Rs. 2 lakhs for the establishment of such a college on certain conditions. Unfortunately no site was selected and after that when war came it was thought advisable to postpone it till the close of the war. After that in 1942 an enquiry was made as to whether if it is possible to get a site according to his

condition, the scheme should be given effect to, but no reply has since been received from him. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: This is extremely regrettable. Is'nt it?)

With regard to grants to union board and charitable dispensaries, a scheme was drawn up long ago to establish a dispensary in every union or a dispensary for every two unions, but unfortunately that scheme could not be given effect to. Honourable members are aware of that. It is a colossal task. At present we are trying to give medical relief even in mofussal areas by the extension of medical facilities. You will be surprised to hear that during the last six months we have opened about 700 emergency hospitals and the number of beds has increased. My friend Mr. Ahmed Hosain has said that these hospitals should be made permanent. I may tell him that we have got a scheme for the extension of medical relief and that scheme will be taken up in connection with our rehabilitation and post-war reconstruction plan. Our present proposal with regard to the grants to these union boards and thana dispensaries is to allot Rs. 250 and Rs. 500, respectively, and so far as sadar and subdivisional hospitals are concerned it is the duty of the local bodies and district boards to maintain them. It is not our duty to provide them with money. These are self-governing institutions and so if anything goes wrong with them, that casts no reflection upon us. We cannot interfere with them legally. I am glad now that even in this House there have been sentiments expressed for the provincialisation of sadar and subdivisional hospitals. There has been a tendency, and this tendency has developed to a very great extent, that there should be decentralisation. Even the then Opposition members, the ardent nationalists, had asked for provincialisation of sadar and subdivisional hospitals. I myself would be loath to provincialise these sadar and subdivisional hospitals, because complexities of various kinds may crop up. However, we have circularised this matter to the District Magistrates asking for their opinion as to whether the hospital authorities will be willing to surrender their right of management. The other day I suggested this to the District Magistrates who, I thought, welcomed this. I would also say that the sadar hospitals and subdivisional hospitals, as has been pointed out by Dr. Sanyal, would also welcome this move. But there are people who think that the advantage will be very little because the hospitals with which they are connected are already well-equipped. That is the reason why Government have taken so long to come to a decision in the matter.

Coming to the cut motions, I shall first of all take the question raised by Mr. Atul Chandra Sen with regard to the Campbell Medical School of Calcutta and the Mitford School of Dacca. With regard to the Campbell Medical School affair, it is already well-known to the House and to the public outside as to how Government dealt with it. *Communiqués* were issued from time to time. Mr. Mullick has already pointed out how essential it is that discipline should be maintained in educational institutions. At present, the Campbell Medical School is under the supervision of an Indian Superintendent who is also a Professor of Medicine and who has been in the School all the time. There are other teachers who along with the Superintendent are all anxious to improve the institution. The real complaint was this. The spirit that actuated the strike was undesirable. It was raised over the transfer of a junior professor. So, I hope that this

House, be they members of the Opposition or of Government, will co-operate with me in seeing that discipline is maintained in medical and in other institutions.

With regard to the Mitford School, I did not follow Mr. Sen. I did not know that there was any room for complaint. I only knew that there was a professor of Surgery wanting, which work was carried on by Lt.-Col. Fischer. Now a Professor of Surgery has been appointed. I shall however look into the matter.

Coming to the question of mismanagement of the Calcutta Medical College, Dr. Sanyal has talked of favouritism and nepotism being very much in vogue. He has also said that Europeans have been top dogs and Muslims under dogs. Although he has not said so in so many words, yet my inference is that. So far as Colonel Anderson is concerned, he is known to be a good Surgeon.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You have not actually recommended his reappointment.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: How do you know that?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The Governor has overruled your decision.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: I ask again how do you know that?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You can say now that it is not a fact.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: It is not a fact. Dr. Sanyal is absolutely wrong. Colonel Anderson was granted an extension for the 4th time. Dr. Sanyal has also stated that Colonel Murray is inefficient and that reappointments are made in the case of Europeans and Muslims. At the same time he has said that Colonel Anderson could not do his work on account of some skin disease on his hands. The appointment of Colonel Anderson is a matter which is entirely in the hands of the Governor. During the time of the last Ministry, two extensions were granted to him. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: They were also equally guilty.) This Ministry is not responsible

With regard to Colonel Murray, I do not know anything about his efficiency or inefficiency. Now that the point has been raised, I shall certainly look into it but I can say that skill and efficiency are not the monopoly of any one particular community. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have not claimed that.) Colonel Murray is M.R.C.P.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He is a most incompetent man.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: Dr. Sanyal is a Doctor of Economics. He is not a medical man. So far as the competency of a medical doctor is concerned, I will not take Dr. Sanyal's word. I may explain the policy of Government in this connection. So far as the Medical Department is concerned, Government have never favoured any inefficient or incompetent men. Under the shibboleth of efficiency, hitherto one community has had a lion's share in appointments. That is a thing which is not going to continue.

With these words I oppose all the cut motions.

The motion of Dr. Sharat Chandra Mukherji that the demand of Rs. 60,12,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Atul Chandra Sen that the demand of Rs. 60,12,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Atul Chandra Sen that the demand of Rs. 60,12,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 60,12,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra Sen that the demand of Rs. 60,12,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra Sen that the demand of Rs. 60,12,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Radhanath Das that the demand of Rs. 60,12,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaludidn Ahmad that a sum of Rs. 60,12,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" was then put and agreed to.

39—Public Health.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to *move* that a sum of Rs. 60,10,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health".

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about failure of Government to adequately cope with cholera, pox, malaria and other epidemic diseases.

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, জনস্বাস্থ্য বিভাগের ব্যয়বরাদ্দের উপর আমার নামে যে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব লিপিবদ্ধ আছে তাহা আমি নিয়মিতভাবে উত্থাপন করছি। আমার এই ছাটাই প্রস্তাবের মর্ম হলো কলেরা, ম্যালেরিয়া, বসন্ত ইত্যাদি সংক্রামক ব্যাধিসমূহ হতে বাংলার জনসাধারণ বিশেষ করে দরিদ্র পল্লীবাসীকে রক্ষা করার বিষয়ে যথাযোগ্য ব্যবস্থা বা উপায় অবলম্বন করিতে বর্তমান মন্ত্রী-সভা যে অক্ষমতার পরিচয় দিয়েছেন তাহার আলোচনার জন্যই আমি এই প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করিতেছি।

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, আমরা এই পরিষদে যখনই যে বিষয়ে আলোচনা করিতে চাই তখন মনে পড়ে বাংলার লক্ষ লক্ষ জনসাধারণ খেতে না পেয়ে যে মারা গেছে, এবং খাবার অভাবে শরীর ক্ষয় ও জীবনীশক্তি নষ্ট হইবার দরুণ নানা প্রকার ব্যাধিতে যারা মারা গেছে তাদের কথা পুনঃ পুনঃ মনে পড়ে; এবং তার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে মনে পড়ে—এই দুরবস্থার প্রধান কারণ হলো বিধাতার অভিশম্পাতিত বাংলার গভর্ণর মৃত সার জন হার্বার্ট যে অবাঞ্ছিত,

মন্ত্রী-সভা বাংলার জনসাধারণের ঘাড়ে জোর করে চাপিয়ে দিয়েছেন তাদের অপকর্ম্মের কথা, তাদেরই স্বার্থপরতামূলক অপকর্ম্মের জন্য আজকে কলেরা, ম্যালেরিয়া, বসন্ত ইত্যাদি নানাপ্রকার সংক্রামক রোগে বহু লোক মরে যাচ্ছে, এবং না খেয়েও মরে যাচ্ছে। আমার দৃঢ় ধারণা যেসব লোক মরে গেছে তাদের আত্মা আজ তাদের অনাহারে ও রোগে চিকিৎসাভাবে অকাল মৃত্যুর প্রতিশোধ নেবার জন্য স্যার জন হার্বার্টের আত্মাকে তাড়না করছে—এইটে হচ্ছে আমার বিশ্বাস। এই সঙ্গে আমার মনে পড়ে বাংলার যে সমস্ত শিশু অকালে পিতৃমাতৃহীন হয়ে জীবিত আছে এবং যেসব পিতা মাতা অন্নাভাবে ও রোগে ঔষধ ও পথ্যাভাবে অকালে শিশু সন্তানহারা হয়ে জীবিত আছে তাহাদের শোকবাহী দীর্ঘনিঃশ্বাসের গরম হাওয়া আজ খোদাতালার আরশ পর্য্যন্ত পেঁৗছেছে। আমি বলিতে পারি যে সমস্ত শিশু এবং শিশুর পিতামাতা অকালমৃত্যু বরণ করেছে তাদের আত্মা অপেক্ষা করছে বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী ও তাদের সমর্থক দলের আত্মার নিকট হতে প্রতিশোধ নেবার জন্য। এবং সে এমন জায়গায় দাঁড়িয়ে অপেক্ষা করছে যেখানে ইউরোপীয়ান সদস্যদের ভোটের দ্বারা পরিত্রাণ পাওয়া যাবে না।

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, বাংলা দেশে আজকে এই যে কলেরা, বসন্ত ও ম্যালেরিয়া ব্যাপকভাবে আরম্ভ হয়েছে তার কোনই প্রতিকার হচ্ছে না। জনসাধারণের স্বাস্থ্য রক্ষার জন্য কোনই ব্যবস্থা হচ্ছে না, রোগ হলে তার ঔষধের ব্যবস্থা হচ্ছে না, কোন জায়গায়ই ঔষধ আবশ্যকমত পাওয়া যাচ্ছে না, তা ছাড়া পানীয় জলেরও কোন সুব্যবস্থা হচ্ছে না। খাদ্যের অভাব তো রোয়েছেই। সর্ব্বোপরি বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে সমস্ত খাদ্যদ্রব্যের আমদানী করেছেন এ কলকাতায়—যেটা নাকি বাংলা দেশের রাজধানী—যে বাংলা দেশের চাষী বিভিন্ন জেলায় রাজভোগ, বাদশাভোগ, দুধসর, চিনিশাখর চালের জন্ম দিয়ে থাকে, সেই বাংলা দেশের রাজধানীতে হাতীভোগ, ঘোড়াভোগ, গাধাভোগ, খচ্চরভোগ প্রভৃতি চালের আমদানী করেছেন। এই সম্পর্কে আমি জনস্বাস্থ্য বিভাগের মন্ত্রী মাননীয় খান বাহাদুর জালাল উদ্দীন সাহেবকে জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই, তিনি একজন ধার্ম্মিক লোক, ইংরেজ আই-সি-এস সেক্রেটারীর ফরমা বর্দ্দাবি না করে স্বাধীনভাবে বাংলার জনসাধারণের স্বাস্থ্য রক্ষা করার ক্ষমতা ও সেরূপ বুকের পাটা এবং মেরুদণ্ড তাঁর আছে কি না? তিনি তাহা করবেন কি না?

Maulvi MAQBUL HOSAIN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to supply adequate quantity of quinine to counteract the spread of malaria in Bengal.

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, ম্যালেরিয়া বিস্তারে বাধা দিবার জন্য পর্য্যাপ্ত পরিমাণ কুইনাইন সরবরাহে গভর্ণমেণ্ট অক্ষম হওয়ায় তার সমালোচনার জন্য এই ছাটাই প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত করিতেছি।

বাংলায় লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক ম্যালেরিয়ায় মারা যাইতেছে। তাহা দমন করার জন্য ও জনসাধারণকে ম্যালেরিয়ার কবল হইতে রক্ষা করার জন্য মন্ত্রী-সভা কোন চেষ্টা করিতেছে না। গভর্ণমেণ্ট কুইনাইন বিক্রয়ের যে ব্যবস্থা করেছেন তা অত্যন্ত নিন্দনীয়। কুইনাইন ক্রয় করিতে হইলে রেজিষ্টার ডাক্তারের ব্যবস্থাপত্র নিতে হয়। কিন্তু আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি ডাক্তারের visit দিয়া কতজন লোকের ভাগ্যে জোটে ব্যবস্থাপত্র নিবার। ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের যোগে বিনা পয়সায় যে কুইনাইন বিতরণের ব্যবস্থা আছে তাহা অত্যন্ত অপ্রচুর। যে ইউনিয়নে হাজার হাজার লোক ম্যালেরিয়ায় আক্রান্ত আছে সেখানে ঔষধ দেওয়া হয় মাত্র ২০০ লোকের। ইহাতে এই অপর্য্যাপ্ত কুইনাইনের দ্বারা কেহই উপকৃত হয় না। তা ছাড়া বর্ত্তমানে কুইনাইনের যে দর নির্দ্দিষ্ট আছে তাহাতে জনসাধারণের পক্ষে কুইনাইন খরিদ করা সম্ভবপর নহে। বাংলার মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী যদি

জনসাধারণকে বাঁচাইতে চাহেন তাহা হইলে ডাক্তারের ব্যবস্থাপত্র ব্যতীত কুইনাইন যাহাতে সহজে খরিদ করিতে পারা যায় তাহার ব্যবস্থা করুন এবং দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের জন্য পর্য্যাপ্ত পরিমাণে ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডযোগে বিনামূল্যে কুইনাইন বিতরণের ব্যবস্থা করুন।

এই বলিয়া আমি আমার প্রস্তাব গ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করিতেছি।

Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about (1) failure of the Government in the matter of water-supply in rural areas; (2) inefficiency of Sanitary Inspectors and Health Officers, and corruption prevailing amongst them; (3) failure of the Government to supply sufficient quantities of quinine to rural private practitioners and rural dispensaries under district and union boards; and (4) absolute failure to supply sufficient quantities of cholera and typhoid vaccines for prevention of epidemics arising out of bad food, taken by the masses in the present days of acute food problem.

Sir, I beg also to move that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about (1) failure of the Government to stop adulteration of foodstuff, which is abundantly prevalent in the country and thereby giving rise to severe epidemics such as cholera, indigestion, beri-beri, etc.; (2) absolute negligence of the Government in not taking any steps whatever to ascertain cause and to prevent beri-beri in the district of Birbhum which has played havoc during the last few months; and (3) absolute callousness of the district and municipal boards in checking the spread of such epidemics.

I beg also to move that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about failure of Government to formulate and to give effect to a comprehensive scheme for rural health improvement.

And, finally, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about (1) utter failure of the Government in starting Maternity Homes and child-welfare centres in aid of the rural public; and (2) failure of the *dai*-training system.

Sir, I beg to state that the Government has failed absolutely in the matter of water-supply in the rural areas of almost all the districts. In my district of Birbhum a number of tube wells were sunk about six years ago which had become useless after a couple of years only. The contractors stole away a big sum of money with encouragement of the Governing Body. The soil of Birbhum was not suitable for tube wells, still the money was spent and looted without any help to the public. Since then, owing to high price of masonry materials and cement rings, no wells could be dug by the district board and the Government, since then, did not sanction any money earmarked for the purpose and hence the people of rural areas are drinking filthy water of the unprotected tanks. Owing to filthy accumulated water, epidemics of water-borne diseases have become very common. The sanitary staff—the strength of which is not insufficient—has proved to be inefficient altogether. The epidemics, when they visit a place as a guest, make a permanent abode there. Adulteration of foodstuff such as ghee, mustard

oil, *atta* and even rice, has become a common and normal factor with the advent of war crisis in the country. It seems as if a free licence has been granted by the Government to encourage adulteration of foodstuffs. For want of food and bad adulterated food in famished stomach, the general mass of rural people had to suffer from several diseases which naturally led them to die in millions and not in scores or hundreds.

Sir, it is an undeniable fact that to prevent the epidemics to spread, nothing could be done for want of vaccines and such other drugs. The sanitary staff moved about to make travelling but to no effect. The actual condition was not altered until Nature's help came by itself. Want of quinine for malaria and stories of fabulous black-marketing in the trade of medicine have become recorded as a unique instance. The number of rural practitioners is large. Lives of the rural public mostly depend in their hands. If they could get a supply of quinine many lives could have been saved. But as luck would have it, many had to die for want of the only panacea of malaria—quinine.

Sir, I give here a short history of quinine position of India. There are only two State-owned cinchona plantations with factories for the production of quinine—one at Mungpoo (Darjeeling) and the other at Neduvattaram (Nilgris). Before the war, only 70,000 lbs. of quinine were on average produced per year. The quantity produced now is slightly higher, the combined figure for 1942 being 72,000 lbs.

India's minimum requirement as calculated by authorities including, Sir Andrew Balfour is 1,250,000 lbs. per year. Dr. Bentley's estimate for Bengal alone was 1 lakh pound of quinine for any appreciable effect on the malaria situation in Bengal. The present need is cent. per cent. more on a moderate estimate, due to higher incidence of malaria in Bengal. So, the production of quinine is much below the requirement. I want to know what step the Government has taken or propose to take to import quinine from other countries with the help of the United Nations.

Sir, in the case of beri-beri epidemic in Birbhum, the supposed cause was found out to be the mustard oil which contained Argumoni seeds (Sealkata) which has toxic effect on the nerves and miocardine, but the sanitary staff neither could prosecute cases in numbers dealing with such stuff of mustard oil for such offences nor could prevent the epidemic spreading. The municipal authorities or the district board did not take any preventive steps nor could stop supply of bad adulterated mustard oil. Although there had been long talks and hopes for public health improvement, no comprehensive scheme has yet been drawn up and given effect to.

In order to save the rural public (who practically feed the remaining other people) from the cruel hands of dangerous diseases, an immediate step should be taken before the whole country becomes a burial ground.

Sir, regarding maternity homes, no such homes have been started in any rural area up till now. The *dai*-training class has failed to produce a single trained *dai*.

Sir, I suggest to the Government to take up a small district like Birbhum bordering the province and make an ideal of a district. In every union board let there be a nice little up-to-date dispensary with 2 or 3 beds for urgent cases with up-to-date surgical instruments and a microscope. Let

there be a maternity home in charge of a midwife with a bed or two for difficult labour cases. Let the medical officers be decently paid and good quarters provided. Selection from the local practitioners to serve as medical officers may economise the situation. 50 per cent. of the cash for starting and maintaining be borne by the Government and the remaining 50 per cent. by union boards. If it is at all impossible to start such institutions in every union board, let two boards have one at least and let us see how it progresses. If such system succeeds in one district, it may then be extended gradually to other districts as well.

Sir, I entreat the Minister in charge of the Public Health portfolio to kindly listen to my suggestion and let us feel that our Ministers have hearts and they feel for their country.

Sir, with these words I beg to commend my motions to the acceptance of the House.

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to provide adequate and timely medical relief in the epidemic infected areas in the province.

Sir, the manner in which the province-wide outbreak of epidemic diseases was dealt with by the Government at the initial stages is a blot on the administration of the province, and betrayed a most shameful callousness towards the sufferings of the people. Sir, it is well known that cholera made its appearance in an epidemic form from July last and took a heavy toll of human lives. During the first few months, that is to say, right up to the end of September, no special measures were taken by the Government to meet this extraordinary situation. Even when the stories of the terrible havoc were repeatedly brought to the notice of the Government, the usual plea that there was dearth of medicine and anti-cholera vaccines were not available in sufficient number, was put forward and thousands died without treatment and thousands fell fresh victims for want of any inoculation measures. The department of Public Health itself, Sir, failed to realise the gravity of the situation, and to impress on the Government of India the over-riding necessity of providing these medicines. Sir, it was only when the Army Authorities took charge that the necessary medicines became available, but by the time these medicines reached the rural areas, the virulence of cholera had already subsided to a large extent and they came too late to be of any substantial relief to the people.

Sir, this also is the story in respect of the malaria epidemic. No quinine was available and people died like cats and dogs without any medicine whatsoever. Sir, numerous villages have been ruined by this fell disease. Sir, it is an amazing fact that the authorities in many districts were not even aware of the havoc being created by malaria in definite areas within their jurisdiction for a long time and no medical help became available to those rural areas until in some cases one-third of the population had died. Sir, several villages near about Peali railway station on the Diamond Harbour line about twelve miles from Calcutta have become desolate owing to the depredations of this disease and about half of their population have been dead. The report reached us somewhat late and when we from the Hindu Mahasabha sent a medical unit for their relief, we were astonished

to find that even such appalling miseries had failed to reach the ears of the authorities or to receive any help from the Public Health Department. Sir, a similar story was told by the Managing Director of the Dhakeswari Cotton Mill, who in course of his visit to a village situated within a few miles of the mill-site, found that about one-third of its population had died of malaria within a very short time. When this fact was brought to the notice of the Subdivisional Officer of Narainganj, he expressed surprise that he was never informed about it previously.

Sir, these are only two typical cases. I can say that this was the case almost everywhere. The thana and union board authorities in many places treated the situation with complete indifference and did not even think it worth their while to inform the district authorities. Even in cases where district authorities were informed, no action whatever was taken for a long time. In some districts, Sir, a good quantity of quinine was lying in reserve stock with the District Magistrate, but these were not released for sale to the public or for distribution through dispensaries, though reports of hundreds dying daily for want of medicine were being received by them. Sir, such callousness can hardly be imagined in persons in whom there is anything like sense of humanity.

Sir, the Public Health organisation has proved to be hopelessly inefficient and requires thorough overhauling. Sir, this department must be manned by persons who are imbued more with a spirit of public service and shorn of unnecessary official prestige or redtapism. Sir, I maintain that a large percentage of deaths caused by cholera and malaria were preventible and could have been prevented if the authorities of the Department had responded timely to the demands of the situation and organised relief even with the limited medical resources at their disposal with promptitude and expedition.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about failure of the Government in combating malaria, cholera and other epidemic diseases due to food scarcity and flood.

I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about a comprehensive scheme regarding rural water-supply.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, এই বর্ত্তমান সময়ে আমাদের দেশে দুর্ভিক্ষে যত লোক মারা গেছে তার সঠিক সংবাদ যদিও পাওয়া যায় নাই, আমেরি সাহেব যে সংখ্যা দিয়াছেন তাতে দেখা যায় ৬ লক্ষের অধিক। সংবাদপত্রে অনশনে মৃত্যু এবং অন্যান্য সংবাদের সঙ্গে ম্যালেরিয়া, কলেরা, বসন্ত প্রভৃতি নানাবিধ সংক্রামক রোগে কত লোক মারা গেছে তার একটা সংখ্যা নির্ণয় না হলেও অনেক লোক যে মারা গেছে সে সংবাদ সংবাদপত্রে বেরিয়েছে। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় মেডিক্যালের ব্যয়বরাদ্দের সময় বলেছেন যে, কুইনাইনের যে ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে তাতে ম্যালেরিয়া নিবারণের যথেষ্ট পন্থা রহিয়াছে। তিনি বলেছেন যে District Medical Officers এবং অন্যান্য Registered চিকিৎসকদের through দিয়ে কুইনাইন বিলির ব্যবস্থা করেছেন। কিন্তু আমরা জানি অনেক non-official doctor's আছেন এবং medical faculty

যাঁরা পাশ করেছেন সেই সমস্ত ডাক্তারদের কুইনিন দেবার ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই। কুইনাইনের অভাবে অনেক চিকিৎসা-কেন্দ্রের কাজ ঠিকভাবে চলা অসম্ভব হয়ে পড়েছে। আমার মনে হয় এ বিষয়ে Director of Public Healthকে জানানো হয়েছে কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় আজ পর্য্যন্ত তিনি কোন প্রাপ্তি সংবাদ দেন নাই বা কোন ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই।

দ্বিতীয়তঃ খাদ্য-সমস্যা ও বন্যার সময় বাংলা দেশে গভর্ণমেণ্টের তরফ থেকে যে ব্যবস্থা করেছিলেন সেটা লোকের প্রয়োজনানুরূপ কিছুই হয় নাই। তা ছাড়া গভর্ণমেণ্ট নিজেই নিজ নির্দ্দেশ অনুসারে সাহায্যের ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই। যখন বর্দ্ধমানের বহু জায়গার মধ্য দিয়ে দামোদর বন্যার জল যাওয়ায় লোকের স্বাস্থ্যহানি ঘটে তখন District Public Health Officer বলেছিলেন বহুল পরিমাণে চিকিৎসা ব্যবস্থার জন্য অধিক সংখ্যক ডাক্তার নিযুক্ত করতে। আজ পর্য্যন্ত যা কিছু সাহায্য তাদের তা District Board থেকেই দেওয়া হয়েছে কিন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে কিছুই দেন নাই। এমন কি ঔষধের দাম পর্য্যন্ত গভর্ণমেণ্ট দেন নাই। আর একটা কথা আমি বলতে চাই এই যে, খাদ্য-সমস্যা সমাধানের জন্য যে সমস্ত স্থানীয় প্রতিষ্ঠান আছে তাদের সঙ্গে যদি গভর্ণমেণ্ট সহযোগিতা করেন তাহলে তাঁহারা জনসাধারণকে বেশী সাহায্য করতে পারবেন। তা ছাড়া তারা আর একটা ব্যবস্থা করেছেন—যেসকল দাতব্য চিকিৎসালয় আছে তাদের কেন্দ্র করে সপ্তাহে ২।৩ দিন কুইনাইন দিবার ব্যবস্থা করেছেন। এ বিষয়ে মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে বিশেষ নজর দিতে বলছি। তিনি যদি নজর দেন তবেই এই ব্যবস্থা কার্য্যকরী হবে। কুইনাইন ছাড়াও লোকের আরো কতকগুলি ঔষধ পাওয়ার পক্ষে সুবিধা করে দেওয়াও গভর্ণমেণ্টের একান্ত কর্ত্তব্য। ম্যালেরিয়া দূর করতে হলে খালি কুইনাইন বিতরণেই হবে না, জলনিকাশের ভাল বন্দোবস্ত করেতে হবে, এবং ভাল পানীয় জলের ব্যবস্থা আছে কি না সেইটা অনুসন্ধান করে কূপ খনন, পুষ্করিণী সংস্কার ও টিউব-ওয়েল খননের ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে।

গভর্ণমেণ্ট যদি উপযুক্ত পরিমাণ কুইনাইনের যোগাড় করতে না পারেন তাহলে ডাঃ বি, সি, রায়ের ব্যবস্থামত ছাতিমছালের সঙ্গে মিলিয়ে ম্যালেরিয়া চিকিৎসার জন্য যে ঔষধের প্রচলন করেছেন সেটা দ্বারা জনসাধারণকে এই দুর্দ্দিনে ম্যালেরিয়ার হাত থেকে বাঁচাতে পারেন।

Mr. PATIRAM ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion to raise a discussion about free distribution of quinine in the rural area.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, আজ বাংলা দেশের আকাশ-বাতাস অন্নাভাবে হাহাকার ধ্বনিতে মুখরিত। খাদ্যের অভাবে এবং ঔষধের অভাবে লক্ষ লক্ষ বাঙ্গালী আজ নিষ্ঠুরভাবে মৃত্যুর করাল গ্রাসে পতিত হইতেছে। বর্ত্তমান দুর্ভিক্ষে মৃত্যুর কথা ছাড়িয়া দিলেও এই বাংলা দেশে কেবলমাত্র ম্যালেরিয়া রোগেই প্রায় ৬ লক্ষ লোক অকালে মৃত্যুমুখে পতিত হয়। তাছাড়া ম্যালেরিয়ায় ভুগে শতকরা ৭৫ জন লোক অকর্ম্মণ্য অবস্থায় সারা বৎসর জীবন যাপন করিতে বাধ্য হয়। ম্যালেরিয়া ছাড়া কলেরা, বসন্ত, কালাজ্বর, টাইফয়েড প্রভৃতি নিবার্য্য ব্যাধিতেও লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক মারা যায়। এই দুরবস্থা দূরীকরণের জন্য এবং বাঙ্গালীর স্বাস্থ্যের উন্নতির জন্য বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্ট কোন কার্য্য করার চেষ্টা করেন নাই। মধ্যে মধ্যে কুইনাইন বিতরণের ব্যবস্থা দেখা যায়। পল্লীগ্রামে ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের Presidentএর through দিয়া এই কুইনাইন বিতরণ করার ব্যবস্থা আছে। যে কোন দ্রব্য জনসাধারণের মধ্যে বিতরণের ব্যাপারই ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের presidentএর through দিয়া করার ব্যবস্থা গভর্ণমেণ্টের আছে। এই নীতির ফলে আমরা নানারূপ দুর্নীতির প্রশ্রয় দেখিতে পাই। দুর্ভিক্ষে অন্ন বিতরণ, কাপড় বিতরণ

প্রেসিডেন্টগণ করিবেন, গভর্ণমেণ্টের সার্কুলার বিতরণ তাঁহারা করিবেন, টিউব-ওয়েল, পুষ্করিণীর স্থান নির্দ্দেশ তাঁহারা করিবেন। কলেরার প্রতিষেধক ঔষধ বিতরণ তাঁহারা করিবেন। ম্যালেরিয়ার কুইনাইন বিতরণও তাঁহারা করিবেন। বাংলার দুর্ভাগ্য সর্ব্ব বিষয়ে expert প্রেসিডেণ্ট ত পাওয়া যায় না। কুইনাইন বিতরণ করতে হলে ডাক্তারীতে একটু জ্ঞান থাকা দরকার। তাই দেখা যায়, কুইনাইনের কোন doseএর দিকে লক্ষ্য না করিয়া, রোগীকে কুইনাইন দেওয়া হচ্ছে। ইহাতে রোগীর উপকার ত করাই হয় না বরং অপকার করা হয় বেশী। উপযুক্ত মাত্রায় কইনাইন না দেওয়া, ম্যালেরিয়া ভাল না। বরং ঐ বিশ্বাসে থাকিয়া রোগ ভোগেও রোগী মারা যায়।

খুলনা জেলার সাতক্ষীরা মহকুমার ডাক্তার বাবুদের নিকট ৩৯৲ টাকা পর্য্যন্ত পাউণ্ড মূল্যে কুইনাইন বিক্রয় করা হোল, সঙ্গে সঙ্গে আলুর বীজ নষ্ট হওয়ার জন্য ঘাটতি টাকা পাউণ্ড প্রতি ডাক্তার বাবুদের নিকট হতে ৫০ টাকা আদায় করে নেওয়া হোল। প্রকারান্তরে তাঁদের বলা হোল আপনারা এই কুইনাইন বিক্রয় করুন ৮৯৲ টাকা পাউণ্ড হিসাবে। এই দিকে সকলের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিয়া আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করিতে চাই গভর্ণমেণ্ট নিজেরাই কি Blackmarketingএর সহায়তা কোরছেন না? এইজন্য শত শত রোগী হয়তো চড়া দামে কুইনাইন কিনিতে না পারায়, তাহাদের জীবন-প্রদীপ অকালে নির্ব্বাপিত হইয়াছে, আমি এই বিষয়ে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to check the spread of malaria, smallpox, and cholera epidemics and to further the studies in nutrition with a view to improve the nutritional standard of the people.

Sir, previous speakers have already dealt with the question of malaria, smallpox and cholera epidemics and I would not add many words to what they have stated in the House today. I will only state this much that the Government had at one time taken the plea that they could not take effective steps to check the spread of these fell diseases because of the absence of suitable medical men. In reply to a question elsewhere, the Hon'ble Minister is reported to have stated that they sought the help of the Indian Medical Association in this matter but they were disappointed. To this reply the Indian Medical Association circularised a categorical denial and they stated quoting the dates and numbers of the letters to show and demonstrate how very callous this Government has been and how far from truth the statement of the Hon'ble Minister has been. They have stated that although the Indian Medical Association, both the Bengal Branch and the All-India organisation, have tried their level best to co-operate with the Government in the matter of supply of full medical needs by importing persons from outside who are willing to offer their services to the people for the alleviation of their distress caused last year, their offer was not accepted and was not properly attended to.

Sir, I will not deal with this matter any more. On what I would concentrate more today is the question of nutrition and the duty of the Public Health Department in furthering the education on nutrition. The Government of Bengal has got a Sanitary Board of which there is a Nutrition Committee, and this Nutrition Committee has been functioning

for the last two years. They have eminent men on that Board including professors of reputation, both in this country as well as in the whole world, and yet the Government has failed to avail of the very valuable suggestions of such a committee given to Government from time to time. The latest of this Committee's reports has been made available to me a few days ago. It appears from that that an eminent body of scientists and medical men has risen to the height of the occasion and has invited Government's attention to the necessity and value of vitamin rich food and vitamin concentrates, and they appointed a technical sub-committee to submit proposals for production of these. The Committee has reported and it appears that they have demonstrated that if you depend merely on cereals the average earning of a Bengali will not or may not enable him to get sufficient and balanced food for a long time to come, but if synthetic vitamin is produced and food balanced with the same is attempted, then it is quite possible that within the income standard of every human being of this province sufficient food can be given to maintain himself above difficulties. In this connection, I would quote a small paragraph of that report which states thus: "People have tried to solve their nutritional problems but have met with only partial success, as even in America it was observed that to meet the scientific requirement of nutritive elements from meat, eggs, vegetables, milk, etc., would mean a cost of $2·50 to $9 per person per week but the income statistics showed that a majority of families having three or four members had not had the means to allocate such an amount on food only. The Massachusettes Institute of Technology has, however, demonstrated the possibility of getting a complete well balanced diet with processed and synthetic foods for only $0·42 per week per person. In America proceesed food averaged 2·3 cents. per serving, as compared to over 25 cents. if the equivalent nutritive elements are expected from natural foods, and even then it is not so reliable in its nutritional content."

Then, Sir, it is found that in America synthetic vitamins are being manufactured in a large scale. "Synthetic vitamins are now being produced in chemical works on a tonnage basis. In the United States of America the total annual production of synthetics and concentrates exceeds hundred million dollars."

(At this stage the member reached the time-limit, but was allowed one minute more to conclude.)

Sir, I invite the attention of the Government to the Technical Sub-Committee's Report and I submit as this Committee points out that very cheap vitamins can be produced from raw materials like water-hyacinth available in plenty, and by an expenditure of only about 4 lakhs of rupees in this province suitable pilot schemes can be worked, and it will be possible to give necessary vitamins to the people of the province during this emergency. I submit, Sir, that this requires very careful attention.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government—

(*a*) to take steps to prevent black-marketing in respect of medicine;

(*b*) to take effective steps to ensure price of medicine in spite of Ordinance;

(*c*) to distribute quinine; and

(*d*) to remove the difficulties to get vaccine of different kinds.

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, আমাদের কৃষক-প্রজাদলের অন্যতম সদস্য মৌলভী অসিমুদ্দিন আহামদ সাহেবের ছাটাই প্রস্তাব আপনার অনুমতিক্রমে আমি উত্থাপন করছি, যেহেতু তাঁর শরীর অসুস্থ। চোরা বাজারে ঔষধ বিক্রয় বন্ধ করিতে অর্ডিন্যান্স করে ঔষধের দর বাঁধার পরও বেশী মূল্যে ঔষধ বিক্রয় বন্ধ করার কোন কার্য্যকরী পন্থা অবলম্বন করিতে না পারার দরুণ লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক মৃত্যুমুখে পতিত হচ্ছে সেই বিষয় আলোচনা করবার জন্য এই ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত কোরছি।

আমাদের দেশ যখন স্বাধীন ছিল তখন এখানে যথেষ্ট সংখ্যক সুচিকিৎসক ছিল এবং তাঁদের বংশধরেরা আজও কলেরা, বসন্ত প্রভৃতি কঠিন রোগের চিকিৎসা কোরছেন কিন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্ট এইসব কঠিন রোগের চিকিৎসার ব্যবস্থা কোরতে পারেন নাই। আজকাল বসন্তের টীকা ছাড়া আর কোন চিকিৎসার ব্যবস্থা গভর্ণমেণ্ট করেন নাই, তাও অনেক সময় যে সমস্ত Sanitary Inspector আছেন তাঁরা বলেন টীকার বীজ পাওয়া যায় না টীকা দেবো কি করে। কলেরার জন্য যে vaccine তাও পাওয়া যাচ্ছে না। সামান্য যে কুইনাইনের ব্যবস্থা হোয়েছে, বিক্রেতারা সেই সমস্ত কইনাইনও জনসাধারণের নিকট নির্দ্ধারিত মূল্যে বিক্রয় করছে না। জনসাধারণ অশিক্ষিত এবং তাহাদের এই অশিক্ষার ফাঁকে চুরি কোরে এই সমস্ত কুইনাইন দেড়শ-দুইশ টাকা পাউণ্ডে বিক্রয় হচ্ছে। কুইনাইনের চোরা বাজার বন্ধ না হওয়ার ফলে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক মরে যাচ্ছে সেই দিকে গভর্ণমেণ্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করবার জন্য আমি এই প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত কোরছি।

আমি লীগের ধ্বজাধারী মন্ত্রী মহোদয়গণকে জিজ্ঞাসা করি তাঁরা তাঁদের I.C.S. Officer নির্দ্দেশ ছাড়াও নিজের শক্তিবলে বাঙ্গলার গ্রামবাসী জনসাধারণ যার মধ্যে শতকরা ৮৫ জন নিরন্ন দরিদ্র মুসলমান চাষী, তাদের বাঁচাবার জন্য কোন চেষ্টা কোরবেন কি না? এবং ঔষধপত্র, চিকিৎসা এবং স্বাস্থ্যের ব্যাপারে যে সমস্ত দুর্নীতি চলেছে সেগুলির প্রতিকারের ব্যবস্থা কোরে জনসাধারণকে রক্ষা কোরবেন কি না?

Mr. K. A. HAMILTON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, speaking on this demand in 1941, I suggested that decentralisation of the Public Health services in Bengal had been carried out to such an extent as to hinder progress and efficiency. I pointed out that the process of decentralisation had brought the Public Health services so completely under the control of the local bodies that Government had little or no power to control the Public Health organisation, and the Director of Public Health was little more than a paymaster whose function it was to distribute grants to local bodies.

I also pointed out that in other provinces the Public Health staff had been provincialised, for example, in Madras by the Congress Government and also in the Punjab and in the United Provinces. I expressed the view that the time had come for Government to consider the establishment of provincial Public Health services under central control.

My suggestions did not meet with the approval of certain honourable members of the then Coalition Party connected with district boards and the Hon'ble Minister in reply, while not expressing any views on the merits of my suggestions, stated that he did not think they were in accordance with the views of the majority in the House. He did, however, draw the attention of honourable members to the fact that the Public Health services had been provincialised in several provinces.

It was apparent, Sir, that honourable members connected with District Boards took my remarks as an affront to the District Boards. That, Sir, was not intended. I know, Sir, that many of the District Boards do good work, and I see no reason why they should not continue to play an important part in any form of provincialised Public Health service which may be adopted. In fact, Sir, I think that the District Boards should form an integral part of any scheme of reorganisation of the Public Health services under central control. The point which I wish to stress, Sir, is that if our Public Health services are to progress, if they are even to reach modern standards of efficiency, then we must have uniform services under central control. We cannot expect progress, we cannot expect efficiency or uniform practice and procedure while our Public Health staff are under the control of numerous District Boards and Municipalities of varying efficiency and standards. Under such conditions anything like a general policy or plan of public health, anything in the nature of long term planning becomes very difficult, if not impossible. I would only refer in this connection to the anti-malaria measures which were supposed to have been undertaken by District Boards many years ago, but with regard to which little progress has been made. Moreover, Sir, the staff do not have the security of service which is essential for effective work and very often they become dependent on one or two members of the local bodies and their action or inaction is determined by the wishes of these members. They are furthermore deprived of the hope of promotion which in a provincial service would be an incentive to good work.

One other defect which I noticed in 1941 and which has become particularly obvious during the past year has been the inefficient system of collecting vital statistics. We know, Sir, that the primary agent for collecting these statistics is that "maid-of-all-works" the chowkidar. We know also that there are long delays by the Union Board offices in submitting what must be at best somewhat haphazard statistics. In our opinion a primary and obvious step to improve this system is to set up statutory registrars who will register all vital statistics and submit them without the present delays.

I would appeal to honourable members to reconsider the question of provincialisation of the Public Health services dispassionately in the light of the crisis through which we are passing. Events during the past year have shown clearly that our Public Health services are unable to cope with anything in the nature of an emergency. That we have been able to weather that emergency at all has been due to military assistance. People in remote parts of this province have, as the Hon'ble the Finance Minister stated, for the first time known the meaning of real medical attention. Military medical help will not be with us always. It may not even be with us if emergency circumstances recur during the succeeding year. I welcome the decision to provincialise sadar and subdivisional hospitals, but this is obviously only a first step. This is not now a question which can wait until after the War. It is imperative that there should now be central direction and control of our Public Health services, and I would like to know what Government have done to establish this.

The emergency has also shown a grave shortage of doctors and nurses. It has, I think, been admitted that the number of doctors who have come

forward for emergency medical relief work outside Calcutta has not been nearly sufficient to meet requirements. I would like to know, Sir, what steps are being taken by Government to increase the recruitment of doctors and I would like to know what steps are being taken to increase medical training facilities in this province which are obviously inadequate. The position with regard to nurses, Sir, as every honourable member knows, is even worse. Outside of Calcutta civilian nurses are practically non-existent, and this province lacks anything in the nature of a Provincial Nursing Service. It appears to us, Sir, that Government have not given this problem any serious attention. I January, 1941, a Committee was appointed by the then Government to make recommendations with regard to improvement of the training conditions of nurses, but so far as I can ascertain that Committee has not even had a sitting, far less submitted its report. The President of the Committee was Dr. B. C. Roy, the Secretary and Convenor was the Director of Public Health and the personnel included the Surgeon-General and various nursing and hospital representatives. I feel, Sir, that this is a problem which should be tackled immediately and I would like to know what Government intend to do.

In conclusion, Sir, our view is that, while it may not be possible in present circumstances to carry through a drastic scheme of reorganisation of the Public Health services, such a scheme is necessary and should be prepared as soon as possible. To meet the present situation it is imperative that Government should establish central direction and control over the Public Health services, and we would like to know that this has been done.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Sir, I would like to make some observations with regard to the system of distribution of quinine adopted by the Government in the rural areas. I am not aware of the system introduced in all other districts but I come from the district of Pabna where I see that three methods are in vogue there—

(1) the charitable dispensary through which distribution of quinine is made;
(2) the military units through which also its distribution is made; and
(3) selling agents selected from qualified or passed compounders through which quinine is distributed for value at controlled rate.

As for the first, I mean charitable dispensary, those charitable dispensaries are very few in the district of Pabna and they are quite insufficient to meet the demands of the people there and they are quite insufficient for the purpose of distribution to the people of more than 17 lakhs over 1,800 square miles. As to the second, only two military units were appointed in that district, one for each subdivision, and one can easily understand how far they have been able to meet the crying needs of the people there. As to the third, I mean the selling agents, these selling agents are selected from qualified medical practitioners or from passed compounders. But it is a misfortune to the district that many of the unions have not yet been able to get any qualified medical practitioners or passed compounders of their own as a result that those unions are going without supply of quinine. From a talk with the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the department I come to understand that Government has relaxed the rules and even unqualified medical practitioners will be entitled to be entrusted with the charge of

selling quinine at controlled rates. There are few instances where relaxation is to be found in the actual field and in most of those cases the unqualified medical officers were denied to be selected as selling agents. I will now give some specific instances. Two unions within Kazipur police-station of the Serajganj subdivision, namely, Supgacha and Sonamukhi, have no qualified doctors or passed compounders. They have not yet been able to get any selling agents. Some unqualified doctors applied to be selected as selling agents, but unfortunately their cases were rejected and in most cases like this the applications of these unfortunate medical officers were rejected. In view of the situation in the districts, I beg to submit to the Hon'ble Minister that all medical officers, whether qualified or unqualified, if they are found to be reliable and honest, should be appointed by Government as selling agents. I also beg to submit to the Hon'ble Minister that sanitary inspectors as well as leading members in the rural areas who are honest and reliable should be appointed for the purpose of free distribution of quinine.

With these suggestions I resume my seat.

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমি এই cut motion সমর্থন করিতেছি। জনস্বাস্থ্য বিভাগের অবহেলা, অমনোযোগিতা ও অকৃতকার্য্যতা সম্পর্কে যে সকল charge আনা হয়েছে, মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় তা কি অস্বীকার করতে পারবেন? দুর্ভিক্ষ ও মহামারীর আক্রমণে আজ বাংলার প্রতি জেলায়, প্রতি মহকুমায়, প্রতি থানায়, প্রতি ইউনিয়নে, পল্লীতে পল্লীতে কলেরা, বসন্ত, ম্যালেরিয়া, কালাজ্বর প্রভৃতি সংক্রামক ব্যাধিতে প্রতিদিন শত শত স্ত্রী, পুরুষ, ছেলে, মেয়ে মৃত্যুর করাল গ্রাসে পড়িয়া চিরদিনের তরে বিদায় নিতেছে তার ইয়ত্তা নাই, প্রতিকারের সুবন্দোবস্ত নাই, ঔষধ ও পথ্যের ব্যবস্থা নাই, মাননীয় মন্ত্রী খান বাহাদুর জালাল উদ্দীন কি অস্বীকার করিতে পারিবেন? জনস্বাস্থ্য বিভাগের নামে বাংলা সরকারের তহবিল হইতে জনসাধারণের লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ হইতেছে কিন্তু পরিতাপের বিষয় জনসাধারণের উপকার হইতেছে না।

Mr. Speaker, Sir, দুর্ভিক্ষ ও কলেরা, বসন্ত প্রভৃতি মহামারীর আক্রমণে নোয়াখালী আজ মুমূর্ষু অবস্থায় জনশূন্য প্রায়,—এহেন বিপদের সময় সংক্রামক ব্যাধি আক্রান্ত হতভাগ্যগণ কুইনাইন, ঔষধ ও ডাক্তার পাইতেছে না, দুর্ভিক্ষের তাড়নায় টাকা পয়সার অভাবে ঔষধ ও পথ্য সংগ্রহ করিতে পারিতেছে না। Sir, আমি ১৯৪৩ ইং সনের মে মাসে জনস্বাস্থ্য বিভাগের ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী মাননীয় খানবাহাদুর জালাল উদ্দীনের নিকট হাতে হাতে একটি লিখিত Representation দিই অতি সত্বর রোগাক্রান্তদের জন্য ঔষধ ও পথ্যের বন্দোবস্ত করিবার জন্য, দুঃখের বিষয় অদ্য পর্য্যন্ত মাননীয় মন্ত্রী কোন বন্দোবস্ত করেন নাই। আমার চিঠির কোন উত্তর দেন নাই, ইহা মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের কর্তব্য কার্য্যে অবহেলা ও অমনোযোগিতা নহে কি? তাই আমি বলিতে চাই যে তিনি তাঁহার কর্তব্য, দায়িত্ব ও জনস্বাস্থ্যকে ভুলিয়া নিজের স্বার্থ ও সুবিধাই রক্ষা করিতেছেন।

Mr. Speaker, Sir, চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগ বর্তমান বৃটিশ ভারতের Eastern front. বর্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী ও গভর্ণমেণ্ট Eastern Frontierএর অধিবাসীদের প্রতি তাহাদের যে কর্তব্য রহিয়াছে তাহা ভুলিয়া যাইয়া আরাম কেদারায় ঘুমাইতেছেন, Eastern Frontierএর অধিবাসীদের নিরাপত্তার জন্য বিপদ-আপদে সাহায্যের জন্য রোগে শোকে শান্তির জন্য খাওয়া থাকার সুবিধার জন্য ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্ট ও প্রাদেশিক গভর্ণমেণ্ট কোটি কোটি টাকা খরচ করিতেছেন। Eastern Front, Chittagong Divisionএর লক্ষ লক্ষ অধিবাসীদিগকে এহেন

বিপদ সময়ে ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্ট ও বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট এবং মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর ভুলিয়া থাকিবার কারণ কি? আমি Eastern Front চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগের ৮৫ লক্ষ অধিবাসীর সর্ব্ব বিষয়ে নিরাপত্তার প্রতি ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্ট, বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট ও মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর আশু দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি।

Mr. Speaker, Sir, জনস্বাস্থ্য বিভাগের মন্ত্রী খানবাহাদুর জালাল উদ্দীন চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগের চট্টগ্রাম জিলার অধিবাসী। চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগ মন্ত্রী-সভায় যাহাতে unrepresented না থাকে এই বিবেচনাতেই খানবাহাদুর জালাল উদ্দীন মন্ত্রী-সভায় স্থান পাইয়াছেন। বর্ত্তমান নাজি মন্ত্রী-সভার পূর্ব্বের দুইটি মন্ত্রী-সভার কোনটিতেই চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগকে represent করা হয় নাই। চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগের অভাব অভিযোগ যাহাতে গভর্ণমেণ্টের গোচরিভূত হয় চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগের দাবী দাওয়া যাহাতে রক্ষিত হয় এই উদ্দেশ্যেই চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগ হইতে মন্ত্রীর প্রয়োজন। মন্ত্রিদের কর্ম্মক্ষেত্র সমস্ত বাংলা দেশ বটে কিন্তু তবুও আমরা দেখিতেছি যে ঢাকা, রাজশাহী, প্রেসিডেন্সী ও বর্দ্ধমান বিভাগের এবং ফরিদপুর, ময়মনসিংহ, ঢাকা, হুগলী প্রভৃতি জেলার মন্ত্রিগণ নিজ নিজ বিভাগ ও জেলার দাবী-দাওয়া, স্বার্থ-সুবিধা আপ্রাণ চেষ্টায় আদায় করিতেছেন বাংলা সরকারের তহবিল লুট তরাজ করিতেছেন। এই অবস্থায় খানবাহাদুর জালাল উদ্দীন মন্ত্রিত্বের গদীতে ঘুমাইতেছেন কেন? চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগের নোয়াখালী, ত্রিপুরা ও চট্টগ্রাম জেলার অধিবাসীদের ন্যায়সঙ্গত দাবী-দাওয়া উপেক্ষিত হইতেছে কেন? ইহা কি তাহার অমনোযোগিতা না অযোগ্যতা আমরা জানিতে চাই?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, দেশের এই নিদারুণ ভয়াবহ পরিস্থিতিতে Eastern Frontier নোয়াখালী, ত্রিপুরা ও চট্টগ্রাম জেলার ৮৫ লক্ষাধিক অধিবাসীদের মত অসহায় আর কেহ নহে। পূর্ব্ব পাকিস্থানের মোছলেমপ্রধান নোয়াখালী, ত্রিপুরা, চট্টগ্রাম জেলার অধিবাসিবৃন্দ ভাতে, কাপড়ে, কলেরা, বসন্তে মরিয়া শেষ হইয়া যাইতেছে। তথাকথিত লীগ মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী এই দুর্ভাগাদের প্রতি ভুলেও চাহিতেছেন না। তাহারা ভোটের দলাদলিতেই আছেন। নোয়াখালী জেলা-বোর্ড নির্ব্বাচনের পূর্ব্বে মন্ত্রী মিঃ সরওয়ার্দ্দি, খানবাহাদুর মোয়াজ্জেম হোসেন, পার্লামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারী মিঃ মজিদ ভোট canvass করিতে গিয়াছিলেন। চট্টগ্রাম, ত্রিপুরা নোয়াখালী ভ্রমণে স্যার নাজিমউদ্দিন, মিঃ সরওয়ার্দ্দি, খানবাহাদুর জালাল উদ্দিন উড়ো জাহাজে যাতায়াত করিয়াছেন। বোধ হয় রেলে, ষ্টিমারে, ষ্টেশনে, পথে ঘাটে অন্ন বস্ত্রহারা রোগাক্রান্ত মরন্মুখীদের চেহারা দেখিলে তাহাদের করুণ হৃদয় বেদনাতুর হইবে। তাই উড়ো জাহাজে tour করিয়াছেন।

Sir, পরাধীন দেশের ও পরাধীন জাতির মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী বলিয়াই এখনও treasury benchতে বসিয়া আছে। দেশ একদিন এই কৈফিয়ৎ আদায় করিবে। উপসংহারে আমি নোয়াখালী, ত্রিপুরা ও চট্টগ্রাম জেলার প্রতি মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর মনোযোগ আকর্ষণ করিতেছি।

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is very little time to reply to the rhetoric, I mean the brilliant speech of Mr. Golam Sarwar who is known to us all. He has directed my attention to the responsibility that I bear towards the people of Chittagong as I come from Chittagong. I may remind Mr. Golam Sarwar that Noakhali or for the matter of that the whole of the province has got most of the benefits either in emergency hospitals or in relief kitchens or in efficient doctors or in supply of quinine. The *ipse dixits* of Mr. Golam Sarwar that the two districts, viz., Noakhali and Chittagong have not got these are absolutely contrary to facts.

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI: On a point of order, Sir. আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই নোয়াখালি এবং চট্টগ্রামে এ পর্য্যন্ত কত কুইনাইন—

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order. Please sit down.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: Mr. Golam Sarwar is at liberty to think any way he likes. But I may assure him that there are no less competent persons in the Ministry to look after the interests of the Chittagong Division. Watch what the Ministers are doing! Watch what the Party members are doing! They are not fools. Mr. Golam Sarwar himself was a member of our Party in Mr. Fazlul Huq's time and he knows how he often used to tease the Ministers of those days. He has not ceased to do so even now. There are members from the Chittagong Division in this House; there are also members from the Noakhali district. There is a Parliamentary Secretary from the Noakhali district. It seems that Mr. Golam Sarwar will not rest content until their services are done away with. I myself have got my own sense of duty. I owe a duty to my conscience as well. I am not a Minister of a particular Division; I am a Minister of the whole province. As soon as a person is chosen to be a Minister, he has got to see to the interests of the province as a whole. He knows how a Minister is chosen. A Minister is chosen for his reputation in the province and not for his reputation in his district or Division. The question is this. Whether I have served the province and the Chittagong Division well or not, the records will show. The Noakhali mortality figures, when they are known, will be found to be less. The mortality on account of cholera epidemic is almost nil there. The other day we had a conference of District Magistrates and Commissioners when we considered this and other questions. Provision has been made in the district of Noakhali specially in this respect and also in the matter of relief. So far as epidemics are concerned, emergency hospitals in Chittagong and Noakhali are more than in other places except in Faridpur. Mr. Golam Sarwar should know, after my assumption of office, that I went to Chittagong and Noakhali. I saw both the areas. I went to Chittagong frontier and also to Cox's Bazar bordering Burma. I have received complaints also from Comilla and I have looked into them. I have always looked after the interests of the Chittagong Division. I hope that time is not far when Mr. Golam Sarwar will be sitting as a member of our Party on this side of the House.

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI: On a point of information, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister is speaking. You can only rise on a point of order. Please sit down.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: The cut motions that have been moved are about the failure of Government to adequately cope with cholera, smallpox, malaria and other epidemic diseases; about inadequate distribution of quinine; about water supply in rural areas; about inefficiency of health staff; about adulteration of foodstuffs; about prevalence of beri-beri in the district of Birbhum; about failure of Government in starting maternity homes and child welfare centres, etc.

In this connection Mr. Hamilton has referred to some questions which are also allied to subjects that have been traversed by other members. Mr. Hamilton has asked Government what they have done about the

provincialisation of health services. This matter has been under the consideration of Government, since famine relief operations came in and our emergency public health measures came to be adopted for combating epidemics.

I admit that there has been some deficiency or rather incompetency in the matter of collection of vital statistics. I may say that it is not the fault of the Health Department. It is on account of the fact that formerly, and even now, the chaukidar is the only person in the village who sends reports of deaths to the Union Board Presidents. He keeps a register of births and deaths. As we are finding difficulty, we have made a change in the system. We have now made Sanitary Inspectors as Registrars of Births and Deaths. Formerly there used to be delay in supplying information by Presidents of Union Boards to Circle Officers and Subdivisional Officers and now no delay can ensue as we have appointed Sanitary Inspectors as Registrars.

With regard to provincialisation of health services, it is true that it is necessary at present to effectively deal with the problem of rural sanitation, distribution of quinine, cholera and typhoid vaccines. It is essential that the District Board health staff should be under the control of the Director of Public Health. So far, we have not received any complaints that the District Board health staff failed to be amenable to the orders of Government. For this purpose, we wanted to know the views of the District Board Chairmen. They are willing to co-operate with Government for the prevention of epidemics. We have issued circulars in that behalf and we have also asked the Director of Public Health to keep a watch if any District Board fails to co-operate as required by the Civil Surgeon or by the Additional Director of Public Health. If there is any delinquency on the part of any District Board in the matter of co-operation with Government we shall take steps to provincialise the health services.

With regard to the recruitment of Doctors referred to by Mr. Hamilton, we are trying to improve the standard of medical education and we are also considering how our medical schools could be increased and improved. We are trying to recruit Doctors from outside and also from other foreign countries. We have approached the Government of India to release I.M.S. officers now employed on military duty.

With regard to the training of nurses, an additional centre has been opened at Comilla for the training of more nurses. Mr. Hamilton has made a statement in the House that there is a dearth of nurses in Bengal. It is well known, Sir, that Indian women are very slow to take to the nursing profession, especially women of my own community; and that is the reason why we have always experienced the difficulty of getting an adequate number of nurses for our hospitals. In our society we cannot yet expect that daughters of middle class *bhadralog* families will come forward to be trained as nurses in spite of all the facilities given to them.

Now, Sir, I shall deal with the adulteration of food and also with malnutrition,—a point which has been raised by Dr. Sanyal. He has suggested that scientific food should be produced in Bengal in our chemical laboratories to supplement vitamin and other deficiencies in our ordinary diet. I think, Sir, it will be very difficult to try to produce synthetic food in our province when we are clamouring for actual food of which there is

great shortage at the present time. As regards adulteration of food we have got the Food Adulteration Act and also the Pure Food Bill which will be before the Legislative anvil very shortly.

As regards the question of water-supply, on which much comment has been made, I may inform the House that Rs. 17,00,000 has been provided in the budget for rural water-supply. Sir, we have already sunk a large number of tube-wells and we are going to sink a large number as well next year.

As regards Maternity Homes in Bengal, we have got 33 or 35 Centres, and this question is engaging the attention of Government with a view to its improvement and expansion.

As regards the question of distribution of quinine we have made arrangements for its distribution not only to registered doctors but also to others. Formerly it was distribution to registered practitioners only but now it is available not only to unqualified doctors but also to laymen who are reliable and who are selected by the District Magistrate, Subdivisional Officer, or even by the Circle Officer.

Sir, a complaint has been made about the dearth of vaccination for the prevention of cholera and smallpox. But, Sir, I can tell the House that no complaint has been received by us. Now every district has got plenty of vaccine. The local production was 54 lakhs of vaccine in 1943-44. The quantity of anti-cholera vaccine obtained from outside was 70 lakhs, and the amount sanctioned was Rs. 8,75,000. The normal local production was 20 lakhs and vaccine issued up to 20th February, 1944, was 65,73,875. And the inoculation performed from 1st November, 1943, to the end of February, 1944, was 33 lakhs. As regards smallpox vaccine, the local production for 1943-44 was 38 lakh grains; the quantity obtained from outside was 20 lakhs. The amount sanctioned therefor was Rs. 3,12,500. The normal local production completed up to date was 30 lakhs and lymph issued up to date is 71,22,522 grains. The vaccination performed from 1st November, 1943, to 29th January, 1944, was 57½ lakhs.

It is now well known, Sir, that all the measures have been adopted to combat cholera and smallpox. I have to admit that we have had a dearth of doctors but we have got thousands of sanitary inspectors to do this work. Sir, the Public Health Department has been reorganised and we have put one I.M.S. officer as Director of Public Health. We have also got a Nutrition Officer and as a post-war scheme we are contemplating to deal with nutrition problems and preparation of synthetic food. We are also thinking of how to extend medical relief.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House and I hope the movers of cut motions will please see their way to withdraw them.

38—Medical.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I put the main demand and the cut motions under Public Health to vote, I think I should tell the House that cut motion No. 10 under Medical moved by Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta was through oversight not put to the House. I propose to put that motion first.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 60,12,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

39—Public Health.

The motion of Maulvi Abdul Wahed that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Maqbul Hosain that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Sharat Chandra Mukherji that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Sharat Chandra Mukherji, that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Sharat Chandra Mukherji that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Sharat Chandra Mukherji that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Ashutosh Lahiri that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Adwaita Kumar Maji that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Adwaita Kumar Maji that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Patiram Roy that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Abdul Wahed that the demand of Rs. 60,10,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad that a sum of Rs. 60,10,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 1-22 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Monday, the 27th March, 1944, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 27th March, 1944, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 197 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Proposed supply of certain essential commodities to Members of Legislative Assembly.

***194. Maulvi ABDUL WAHED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether Government intend to supply the following commodities to all M.L.As. at controlled rate according to their needs, viz., kerosene oil, mustard oil, sugar, salt, *atta*, flour, soda, *dal*, etc.?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of giving direction to Supply Officers to supply things mentioned in (*a*) to their local M.L.As.?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason of this negative answer?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: Government cannot differentiate between the M.L.As. and others.

Non-availability of certain food articles from the market in Pabna district after control.

***195. Maulvi M. MOSLEM ALI MOLLA:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department aware that—

(*i*) for about a month price of milk, fish, onion and some local vegetables has been controlled by an order of the District Magistrate of Pabna; and

(*ii*) the above articles are not available in markets generally all over the district and specially at the town?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) There was a period when supplies were very scarce in the bazars of Pabna and Sirajganj though they were being sold surreptitiously. As a

result of the general improvement in the position, it is no longer true that the articles in question are not available.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when this improvement took place and at what time?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: It is about a fortnight ago.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government had any control over the supply of those materials at that time at Pabna?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: No. This order has been issued only about a month ago.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why, if Government had no control over the supply of those materials, they had issued such an order?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Because there was an excessive demand and prices of those articles were very high. Therefore Government thought it necessary to control the price.

Scarcity of salt in Bengal.

***196. Dr. SANAULLAH:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department aware of the present scarcity of salt in Bengal, specially in the district of Chittagong?

(*b*) Is it a fact that—

(*i*) salt is available only in the black market at a price between 8 to 12 annas per seer;

(*ii*) one Babu Himangshu Bimal Mazumdar, B.L., was appointed sole salt agent in the district of Chittagong;

(*iii*) he is appointing sub-agent and dealers by collecting Rs.2 from each candidate on account of application form and Rs.337-8 as earnest money; and

(*iv*) the said agent is purchasing country salt at less than cost price from the producers?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of—

(*i*) abolishing the agency system;

(*ii*) fixing up minimum price for the producers and maximum price for the consumers; and

(*iii*) allowing unrestricted manufacture of salt at least during the period of war emergency?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE, LABOUR and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Shahabuddin): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) I have no information.

(*ii*) Mr. Himangshu Bimal Mazumdar has been appointed as contractor for collection of salt from cottage workers at the four salt warehouses established within the scheduled area in the district of Chittagong.

(*iii*) I have no information.

(*iv*) Mr. Mazumdar has been authorised to buy salt at a *minimum* price of Rs.2 per maund. He can, therefore, pay any higher price consistently with his ability to sell salt in the market after paying the Central Excise duty at Re.1-9 and Bengal Government dues at annas three per maund. No complaint has reached me that the contractor is purchasing salt at less than Rs.2 per maund.

(*c*) (*i*) Does not arise.

(*ii*) A minimum price of Rs.2 per maund for producers has already been fixed. The fixation of a maximum price for the consumers is not at present under contemplation.

(*iii*) This is not permissible under the provisions of the Bengal Salt (Village Manufacture, Storage and Transport) Rules, 1943, promulgated by the Central Government but this has engaged my attention.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the allegation made in the question does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable——

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no allegation. Don't say that please.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: All right, Sir. In view of the information furnished in the question does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable that there should be some enquiry made in the matter?

Mr. SPEAKER: Where is the statement of fact?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In the question it is stated: "Is it a fact that the said agent is purchasing salt at less than cost price?"

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a statement. You simply ask whether Government are prepared to hold an enquiry. Don't say allegation or information please.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: All right, Sir. Does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to make an enquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I will refer the honourable member to my answer (*b*)(*iv*) beginning from "No complaint has reached me that the contractor is purchasing salt at less than Rs. 2 per maund".

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: In view of the abnormal rise in the price of salt prevailing in different districts, does not the Government consider the desirability of fixing the maximum price for the consumers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I have already explained that at the present moment on account of various difficulties the question of the fixation of the maximum price has not been considered.

Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: With reference to answer (*c*)(*iii*) has the Government of Bengal moved the Central Government for unrestricted manufacture of salt in Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I explained in answering another question on a previous occasion on this subject that at the present moment the position is that the Government of India have given permission for the manufacture of salt on a commercial basis provided arrangements are made to take salt to the warehouses where the excise duty can be collected.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when Babu Himangshu Bimal Mazumdar was appointed as a contractor?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: It is difficult for me to give the exact date, but I think it is within six months.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the terms of the contract entered into with this Babu Himangshu Bimal Mazumdar?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: As far as I remember I can say without going into details that terms are that he will have to pay Rs. 2 as the minimum price for salt to the actual producer. It will be collected in the warehouses and before it is sold out Government of India excise duty and the Government of Bengal due of three annas will be deducted, and then he can sell it out.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what progress has been possible by now for him to establish the salt godowns as has been stated by him in answer to a question?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: As I said on another occasion, I am speaking from memory again, I think five warehouses have been established in the district of Midnapore, two in 24-Parganas and four in Chittagong and, as I said, collections in the Midnapore and the 24-Parganas districts were not very satisfactory but my report now is that the collection in the Chittagong warehouses which have started work recently is very satisfactory.

Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is scarcity of salt in the districts of North Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I would refer the honourable member to my answer (*a*).

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is to be assumed from his answer (*c*)(*ii*) that the retail prices of salt will be allowed to soar to any height?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Certainly not.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the contractor has been authorised to collect salt from every part of the district of Chittagong?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I suppose so.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the price of Rs. 2 per maund is not too low for persons who prepare salt?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: May I draw the honourable member's attention to the fact that Rs. 2 is the minimum price.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the price at which Government will buy salt from this contractor?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: There is no arrangement that Government will buy any salt from the contractor.

Deputy Labour Commissioner.

*197. **Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state the names of officers who held the post of Deputy Labour Commissioner since it was created?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: The names are: (1) Khan Bahadur S. A. E. B. Murshedi, (2) Maulvi Abu Talib and (3) Maulvi K. M. Azad.

Mr. ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the method by which this officer is recruited?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: As far as Khan Bahadur S. A. E. B. Murshedi is concerned when he was first appointed, I understand from the file, he was appointed by selection, and his appointment was not made through the Public Service Commission.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no non-Muslim has been appointed to this post?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: There is no question of any non-Muslim being excluded. Khan Bahadur Murshedi was first appointed as Deputy Commissioner and the other two were Assistant Commissioners. When Khan Bahadur Murshedi went to another place, the senior Assistant Commissioner, Maulvi Abu Talib was appointed to officiate as Deputy Labour Commissioner. After Maulvi Abu Talib had taken up another appointment Maulvi K. M. Azad, the second man in the chain has been appointed to officiate as Deputy Commissioner of Labour.

Mr. ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who is the next man in rank to Maulvi K. M. Azad who is now acting as Deputy Labour Commissioner?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(answer to which was laid on the table)

Prayer for opening control shops at every village of Chandibarpur Union.

94. **Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that—

(*i*) there is famine in the Chandibarpur Union, police-station Narail, district Jessore;

(*ii*) *aus* crop, the main crop of the year, have failed in the said Union;

(*iii*) the villagers of the said Union sent a memorial to His Excellency the Governor of Bengal through the District Magistrate of Jessore and Subdivisional Officer, Narail, on 12th September, 1943, praying for relief and opening control shops at every village in the said Union; and

(*iv*) the help and relief given by Government have been distributed amongst the party men of the President of the Chandibarpur Union Board?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government intend to take any steps in the matter?

(*c*) If not, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

MINISTER in charge of the CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) (*i*) (*ii*) and (*iv*) No.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the fate of this application referred to in (*a*) (*iii*)?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: I want notice.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

40—Agriculture.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,29,51,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture".

I reserve my observations till after the cut motions are moved.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: Sir, may I move the motion standing in the name of Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion to raise a discussion about the necessity for free distribution of manure, seeds among the cultivators and cattle among those cultivators who have sold their cattle in the time of distress.

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, আমাদের কৃষক প্রজা দলের সভ্য মৌঃ গিয়াসউদ্দিন সাহেবের যে কৃষিখাতে ব্যয় বরাদ্দ থেকে ১০০ টাকা ছাটাইয়ের প্রস্তাব লিষ্টিভুক্ত আছে তাহা আমি উত্থাপন করছি। বিনামূল্যে চাষীদের বীজ দেওয়া, সার দেওয়া এবং যেসব চাষীরা দুর্ভিক্ষে পড়ে হালের গরু বিক্রয় করিয়া খাইয়াছে তাদের গুরুতর সঙ্কটে গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিকট হতে সর্ব্বপ্রকার সাহায্য পাবার আবশ্যকতা সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা করার জন্য এই প্রস্তাব আনা হয়েছে।

বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর বিশেষ দায়িত্ব রয়েছে বাংলা দেশের চাষী সম্প্রদায় সম্বন্ধে। এদের প্রায় শতকরা ৮৫ জনই মুসলমান। তাদের মধ্যেই অনেকে গরু বিক্রয় করে খেয়েছে। আজকাল একজোড়া হালের বলদের দাম প্রায় ২০০ টাকা। এই অবস্থায় অনেক চাষী হাল বন্ধ করতে বাধ্য হয়েছে। তাদের মধ্যে আবার অনেকে বীজধানও সিদ্ধ করে খেয়েছে। কিন্তু কৃষি বিভাগের কর্ম্মচারী এবং স্বয়ং কৃষিমন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের অভিমত এই যে বীজধান সিদ্ধ করে খাবার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট দায়ী নন। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই পরিষ্কারভাবে বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিসভার স্বার্থপরতামূলক অপকর্ম্মের ফলে এই বাংলা দেশে যখন গুরুতর দুঃখের সৃষ্টি হয়েছে, খাদ্যের অভাব হয়েছে, সেই সময়ে যদি কৃষকেরা বীজধান বিক্রয় বা সিদ্ধ করে খেয়ে থাকে, তাহলে তার জন্য যদি গভর্ণমেণ্ট দায়ী না হন তাহলে দায়ী কে? মাননীয় কৃষিমন্ত্রী মহোদয় যখন

গৌরীপুর দিয়ে পাশ করেন তখন স্থানীয় কৃষি বিভাগের জনৈক কর্ম্মচারীর সঙ্গে কতিপয় কৃষককে আমি ষ্টেশনে পাঠাইয়াছিলাম, বোরো ও আউস ধানের বীজের ব্যবস্থা গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে করার দাবী জানাবার জন্য। তাদের সে দাবীর উত্তরে মন্ত্রী মহোদয় বলেছিলেন চাষীদিগকে, বোরো ধানের বীজ থানেশ্বর বাদলা থেকে এনে নাও। এই দুর্দ্দিনে একে চাষীদের পয়সা নাই, যান-বাহনের কোন সুবিধা নাই, তারা কি করে এতদূর থেকে বোরো ধানের বীজ আনবে, মন্ত্রী মহোদয় কি সে কথা ভেবেছিলেন? বর্ত্তমান আউসের চাষে বীজের অভাবে চাষীদের বহু জমি পতিত থাকিবে একথা কি গভর্ণমেণ্ট খবর রাখেন?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about Government's betrayal of the interests of the province and its agriculturists—

(1) by giving an undertaking to the Government of India to have jute produced in the next season in full eight annas of the total jute acreage,

(2) by agreeing to the raw jute prices as fixed by the Government of India, and

(3) by not ensuring a fair and economical price of raw jute to its growers.

I beg also to move that the demand be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the absence of a well-conceived plan for the "Grow More Food" campaign and wastage of public money.

Sir, the one important measure that the country has got to adopt to tackle the food crisis which has overtaken it is to grow more food within its borders. It cannot possibly depend on supply from outside for all time to come, and in order to grow more food the Government have to carry on a well-planned "Grow More Food" campaign. But to our misfortune, the only kind of "Grow More Food" campaign that this Government have carried on so far has been limited to pasting a few placards in the city walls and publishing a few notices in gentlemen's newspapers. I wonder if the Government intended that more food should be grown on the streets of Calcutta, Dacca and other district towns. The result achieved by this "Grow More Food" campaign is practically nil. On the Government's own admission, as disclosed by the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister's reply to a question the other day, only 8 lakh acres out of about 38 lakh acres of cultivable waste land in this province have been brought under the plough. It is a very small and poor achievement of which this Government or any other Government ought to be ashamed. And to add to the shame of the Government, they have agreed, as I have pointed out in my motion, to the Government of India's proposal to have jute produced in the next season in full eight annas of the total jute acreage. In other words they have not only failed to extend cultivation by bringing more and more cultivable waste lands under the plough, but they have also allowed more and more lands on which food crops might be produced to go under jute cultivation.

Let me now come to intensive cultivation. I have shown that Government have failed to extend cultivation. One might think that Government would do its best to produce two bushels where formerly one bushel was produced on the same plot of land. In order to grow more food on the

same plot of land several measures have got to be adopted. First, irrigational facilities should be increased but, at a glance at the Government record we find that Government have practically done nothing during the year in this direction——

Mr. A. F. STARK: On a point of order, Sir. I may draw your attention to rule 39. Has not the question of jute acreage and maximum price for jute been already discussed in this session by motions already moved by Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas?

Mr. SPEAKER: If this is a matter on which once a decision has been taken, then it cannot be discussed in the same session. But has there been any decision on this point? I think, not. Therefore it is in order.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Now, Sir, I have said that Government have really introduced no irrigational facilities for improving agriculture. The Government have also introduced no manure facilities. No attempt has been made to preserve cowdung as has been done in similar circumstances in all other countries for making and supplying composts. This might be done by supplying the people with some alternative fuel.

Coming to seed supply, Government have admitted that they have supplied very little seed to the agriculturists and the little that has been supplied was supplied after the sowing season was over and most of the seeds supplied did not germinate. This surely cannot be called an achievement.

Next comes the question of preservation of cattle. Except that Government have assured us that they would insist on observation of one meatless day in a week, they have done nothing to prevent decimation of cattle that has been taking place for military purposes.

Lastly, nothing has been done to stop the decimation of agricultural population. No steps have been taken to restore health, energy and vitality of the famine-stricken and disease-stricken agriculturists by supplying necessary food and medicine to them in times of dire distress. In one word, Sir, Government have done nothing to help grow more food in the province to meet the food crisis that has overtaken us today.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the speakers who have preceded me have touched some of the points which I intended to discuss by this cut motion of mine which is to discuss the failure to supply seeds in time and in necessary quantities and of the proper quality.

Sir, on account of the acute distress which prevails throughout the province it is a very well-known fact that the cultivators and farmers had to consume the paddy which was meant to be utilised for seed. Therefore, the question of supply of seed has become a more difficult and a more stupendous task which has got to be tackled by Government. What is happening is that even when some supply of seeds is arranged that is done not in time. Therefore, I would impress upon the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department to see that arrangements are made to make seeds available to those who need them in proper time, because seeds supplied

after the cultivation season is over only means expense to Government and no advantage to the cultivators and farmers.

In the next place, as I have already mentioned, a larger quantity of seed is necessary than was required before this acute situation arose. How is Government going to arrange for this extra supply? So far as I know Government depends upon purchase from other places, but may I point out to the Government that the agricultural farms under the Government ought mainly to engage themselves in raising crops which will supply seeds.

Sir, I should also suggest that many more demonstration plots in different areas ought to be utilised for the purpose of raising crops for the purpose of demonstration as also for the supply of seeds. There is a distinct advantage in getting seeds grown on the agricultural farms or demonstration plots because those seeds are advantageous to the cultivators as they are acclimatized. When you get seeds from a different province where soil conditions differ, those seeds do not germinate in the way good quality seeds obtained in the locality are expected to do.

Sir, we also know that seeds of proper quality should be supplied. Our attempts either in order to make "Grow More Food" campaign succeed or in order to provide the barest necessities require that we should be able to supply seeds of a better quality which will give better yield and for this purpose I think the Agriculture Department should devote its utmost energy to see through this very important matter which is at the root of the success of the "Grow More Food" campaign of providing for the necessaries of life.

Sir, I strongly commend that the Minister of Agriculture will look to these points and do the needful.

Mr. PATIRAM ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government in "Grow More Food" campaign.

বাংলা দেশে আজ যত সমস্যা দেখা দিয়াছে, খাদ্য-সমস্যাই তার মধ্যে সকলের শ্রেষ্ঠ। বাংলার আকাশ-বাতাস আজ খাদ্য নাই, ধান্য নাই, চাউল নাই, আটা নাই, ময়দা নাই—শুধু নাই নাই শব্দে মুখরিত হইয়া উঠিয়াছে। আজ বাংলার লোক আর বলিতে পারে না—আলো চাই, জ্ঞান চাই, স্বাস্থ্য চাই, চাই পরমায়ু—সারা বাংলা আজ চায় চাউল, চায় খাদ্য, চায় শুধু বাঁচতে। আজ গভর্ণমেণ্ট হতে grow more food campaign যদিও করা হচ্ছে তথাপি বাস্তব ক্ষেত্রে উহা ততটা কার্য্যকরী দেখা যায় না, যতটা দেখা যায় কাগজে-কলমে এবং প্রাচীর-গাত্রে।

সারা বাংলা দেশে জমির পরিমাণ মোট ৩ কোটী ৪৭ লক্ষ ৮৪ হাজার ২৫৪ একর। এর মধ্যে শস্য চাষ করা হয় গড়ে ২ কোটী ৩৫ লক্ষ একর জমিতে। তন্মধ্যে কর্ষণযোগ্য পতিত জমি ৫৯ লক্ষ ১৫ হাজার ৬৪০ একর অর্থাৎ প্রায় এক চতুর্থাংশ। এই জমিগুলি পতিত থাকে তার কারণ জলসেচ এবং জলনিকাশের অভাব। অনেক জায়গায় দেখা যায় ভাল সেচের ব্যবস্থা করলে ভাল ফসল হতে পারে। অনেক জায়গায় দেখা যায় জলনিকাশের অভাবে বর্ষার জল জমে ফসল নষ্ট হয়ে যায়। তাছাড়া অনেক জায়গায় বাঁধ দিয়া লোনা জলের প্রবেশ বন্ধ করতে পারিলে প্রচুর ফসল উৎপন্ন হতে পারে। খুলনা জেলায় সাতক্ষীরা মহকুমার এক জায়গায় প্রায় তিন হাজার বিঘা পতিত আছে। এক হাজার টাকা খরচ কোরে সেই

জমিতে বাঁধ দিলে হাজার হাজার মণ ধান্য উৎপন্ন হোতে পারে। Grow more food campaign কেবল কাগজে না কোরে এই জমিগুলি যাতে পতিত না থাকে সেদিকে দৃষ্টি দেওয়া উচিত।

Mr. ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about wasting public money by creation of a new department under the Agricultural Development Commissioner.

Sir, a high judicial officer is reported to have stated that the "Grow More Food" campaign of the Bengal Government is in reality a "Grow More Officers" campaign. Sir, if any instance is needed in justification of this assertion, we will find one in the policy adopted by the Agricultural Department. Sir, an entirely new department has been created which has been called Agricultural Development Department and which has been placed under a newly created post called Agricultural Development Commissioner. In every district an Agricultural Development Officer has been appointed. Naturally, these officers will be assisted by an army of assistants and clerks and thus a parallel organisation is being set up throughout the province. The object of this new move is to help the "Grow More Food" campaign, by bringing more fallow lands under cultivation and by executing small irrigation projects calculated to help more production of food crops.

Sir, I happened to meet, in course of my travel in North Bengal, one such officer who was going to join his new duties and my talks with him left me in no doubt that the whole scheme has been conceived in haste and in a superficial manner and lacked a realistic approach to the problem, in consequence of which the money sanctioned for the purpose is more likely to be wasted than to yield any tangible result in immediate future.

Sir, these new officials will naturally take a considerable time in studying the geography of the district and in acquiring a proper grasp of the actual work to be done. The District Agricultural Officers, who have spent long years in the district and have got detailed experience of the conditions prevailing in various parts of the district are in a better position to take up this work and to produce quick results but they have been left out of the scheme. The new Agricultural Development Officers, Sir, will have no possibility of utilising the experience of these Agricultural Officers, and I feel, Sir, that this duplication of work will delay rather than accelerate the execution of the schemes with which they have been specifically entrusted.

Sir, next to the District Agricultural Officer there is the Circle Officer, the Jute Regulation Officer, and the District Board Engineer and the District Health Officer whose knowledge and experience of the rural areas in a district can be of invaluable help to the new Development Officers, but no machinery has as yet been devised to ensure the active co-operation of these officials with this new department. This will inevitably lead to delay and frustration.

Sir, these District Development Officers are expected to bring more fallow lands under cultivation, but how are they to do it? The execution of merely a few small irrigation projects in a district cannot be expected to yield any substantial results. Sir, it shows the Government itself has got a very hazy notion about the obstacles that stand in the way. Sir, I know that in the Sadar subdivision of the Pabna district, in the Natore subdivision

of the Rajshahi district and in the Ranaghat subdivision of the Nadia district extensive tracts of lands several miles at a stretch are lying uncultivated mainly for two reasons. The scourge of malaria has depopulated these areas and cultivators are difficult to get. Secondly, these are high lands and no water is available. Sir, unless these two factors are effectively dealt with, there can be no improvement in the situation. Sir, in North and Eastern Bengal there are no irrigation canals whatsoever and unless large scale irrigation works are undertaken it is futile to think of bringing fresh lands under cultivation.

Sir, I don't understand how is the creation of this new department going to solve these two problems on the solution of which alone the efficacy of the "Grow More Food" campaign depends. I feel, Sir, it is not within the powers of the District Development Officers to help solution of these problems. These are essentially matters for Public Health Department and Irrigation Department to tackle. Sir, it shows that the Government is not really in earnest about the "Grow More Food" campaign. It is merely tinkering with the problem.

Sir, the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture a few days ago said that about eight lakhs acres of fallow lands have been brought under cultivation out of a total estimated fallow land of 37 lakhs and 25 thousand acres, as a result of Government efforts. Sir, I must say that these statistics cannot be relied upon and I would ask the Hon'ble Minister to place before the House detailed figures, district by district, so that we can verify how far these figures are correct. From my personal knowledge of the three districts I have referred to before, I can say that no fallow lands whatsoever have been brought under cultivation.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the mischief done to the agriculturists by fixing maximum and minimum prices of jute.

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, এই পৃথিবীর মধ্যে বিশেষ কোরে বাংলা দেশেই পাট উৎপন্ন হয়। সেই পাট চাষীর একচেটিয়া সম্পত্তি। চাষীদের টাকা পাওয়ার একমাত্র জিনিষ হচ্ছে পাট। এই পাট উৎপন্ন কোরে চাষীরা মোটেই টাকা পাচ্ছে না। তার কারণ বাংলার মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্টের কথামত লুকোচুরি করে পাটের সর্ব্বোচ্চ দর ১৭৲ টাকা বেঁধে দিয়েছেন। অথচ এই বাজারে এক মণ পাট চাষ করিবার খরচ প্রায় ২৫৲।৩০৲ টাকা। পাটের ব্যবসা ইউরোপীয়ানদের একচেটিয়া। তাঁদেরই সন্তুষ্ট রাখার জন্য বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী বাংলার চাষীদের সর্ব্বনাশ করেছেন পাটের দর ১৭৲ টাকা মণ বেঁধে দিয়ে, যেখানে অন্যান্য জিনিষের তুলনায় পাটের দর মণ পিছু ৫০৲ টাকা হতে ১০০৲ টাকা পর্য্যন্ত দর হওয়া উচিত ছিল। আজ বিদেশী বণিকরা পাটচাষীদের মাথার উপর বসে লক্ষ লক্ষ কোটী কোটী টাকা লাভ করছেন, আর বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী এই অবস্থার সহায়তা করছেন। আজ ইংরেজ নিজের দেশ রক্ষা করার জন্য ব্যস্ত হয়ে পড়েছে। তার জন্য সে একান্তভাবে নির্ভর করছে আমেরিকার উপর। সেই আমেরিকার পাটের যথেষ্ট প্রয়োজন আছে। আমেরিকার বাজারে পাট বিক্রয় কোরে বাংলার চাষী কোটি কোটি টাকা লাভ করতে পারত। বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্টকে সামনে ধরে দিয়ে লুকোচুরি করে পাটের সর্ব্বোচ্চ দর বেঁধে দিয়েছেন মণ প্রতি ১৭৲ টাকা। তারা

বাংলার জনসাধারণকে প্রতারিত করবার চেষ্টা কোরছে। বাংলার লোক তাদের চালাকি বুঝে নিয়েছে। আজ ইংরেজ হিটলারের আক্রমণ থেকে নিজের দেশকে রক্ষা করার জন্য সমস্ত শক্তি ইংলণ্ডে কেন্দ্রীভূত করছে এবং জাপানের গ্রাস থেকে ভারতকে রক্ষা করবার জন্য আমেরিকার হাতে ছেড়ে দিয়েছে এবং আমেরিকানরাও ভারতভূমিতে চরে বেড়াচ্ছে এ অবস্থায় তারা এবার বাংলার বাজারে পাট খরিদ করিতে পারত এবং তাতে পাটের দর অতিমাত্রায় বৃদ্ধি পাইত। সেইটা বন্ধ করে কলিকাতার বাজারে সর্ব্বোচ্চ দর ১৭৲ টাকা বেঁধে দিয়ে বাংলার পাটচাষীদের সর্ব্বনাশ করা হচ্ছে। ইহা কেবল পাটকলের মালিক ইংরেজ সভ্যদের সন্তুষ্ট রাখার জন্য করা হয়েছে। এই সুযোগে তাদের চাষীদের নিকট হতে ৭৷৷৮৲ টাকা দরে পাট খরিদ করে বেশী দরে বিদেশে বিক্রয় করে কোটী কোটী টাকা লাভ করবার সুবিধা করে দেওয়া হচ্ছে।

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the policy of "Grow More Food" campaign.

Sir, the "Grow More Food" campaign is certainly a very laudable idea and it has been launched to minimise the deficiency of food in the province by bringing more waste and fallow lands under cultivation and increasing the outturn of produce from lands already under cultivation. In order to bring more waste land under cultivation, extensive irrigation works, resuscitation of dead and dying rivers, flushing, drainage and colonisation of labour in depopulated and sparsely populated areas are necessary. Let us now see, Sir, what Government has done or is going to do in this respect. I have carefully gone through the pages of the budget and I have found that no provision has been made for bringing waste land under cultivation. The Hon'ble Minister has only created a new department of agriculture, namely, the Development Commissioner's Department and appointed a large number of officers. I do not know how this multiplication of officers in this new branch will bring waste and fallow lands under cultivation. Is it the policy of Government that the Development Commissioner will bring all those lands under cultivation without any real thing being done? This is simply an appendage to the Agriculture Department. There is no dearth of officers, highly qualified with expert knowledge. Those officers could have been entrusted with the task by the Hon'ble Minister to bring the waste lands under cultivation. This new extension of the Agriculture Department will serve no useful purpose but it will simply be a drain on public money.

Let us take the other side regarding greater outturn from the land already under cultivation. Mere distribution of seeds and manure cannot lead to greater output or outturn. In the rural area one section of labour has gone to war service, another section of labour has paid a heavy toll during the last famine and the 3rd section is groaning under the attack of malaria and moving on with enlarged spleen and liver. Plough cattle has been sold away during the period of acute famine due to pinch of starvation. In East Bengal cattle epidemic has caused great havoc. There is no provision in the budget for replenishing labour and plough cattle. The question of plough cattle and labour should come first and then comes the question of seeds and manure. Rs. 6 lakhs has been provided for manure and I submit, Sir, that this would be simply wasted for procuring cowdung and

in fact the money will be totally misappropriated. Similarly the allotment for seeds will be misspent and misappropriated.

(At this stage the honourable member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Maharaja SRISHCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion to raise a discussion about absence of long-term planning for agricultural improvement.

Throughout the diverse items accounting for the estimates under the head "40—Agriculture", I have searched in vain for any comprehensive planning of agricultural improvement, devised with the urgency and seriousness of a war-time measure. In Bengal we are presented today with the colossal problems of food, famine and agricultural backwardness, and if, even after the terrible lessons of the last year, we are now treated with the usual routine and leisurely provisions, the position is hardly likely to inspire any confidence. As we know, last year the bounty of nature came to our rescue and helped us in Bengal to tide over anyhow. Obviously it will be the height of impeudence to depend on Province to come to our rescue, every time a food crisis threatens us.

Sir, will the Government realise that the solution to the problem does not lie in merely having a rigid system of controlled distribution of foodstuffs throughout Bengal. Nor does it lie in approaching the rest of India with a begging bowl. We shall have to realise that Bengal can be self-sufficient and even a surplus province once again, if of course we frame our programme of agricultural improvement along the right tracks and with the necessary determination and firmness.

Sir, almost all the members of the United Nations have taken up a "Victory Farm Production" campaign as an essential item in the movement for victory. Their programmes include not merely short-term measures, but also long-term planning and what is more important the short-term measures are so framed as to be ancillary to the main lines in which long-term plans have been framed. The result is a great fillip to the war-time production of food and a systematic development of "Dynamic Agriculture" —an agriculture which utilises to the full all the aids that science can place at their disposal. Even the sister provinces of India notably the Punjab, Sind and the United Provinces are marching ahead with their schemes of agricultural improvement, and as we know, they are feeding us in Bengal today.

Sir, how are we moving in Bengal? The other day I put a very simple question to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture. I wanted him to supply the figures relating to the total area of lands classified as "fallow" and "culturable wastes other than fallow", and the areas of such lands brought under effective cultivation under the "Grow More Drive". As regards the former he submitted some figures which on his own admission are mere guess-works; as regards the areas brought under effective cultivation the reply is really interesting, which states that "The information is not readily available and cannot be collected except by making an enquiry which will involve an expenditure of time, money and labour which will not be commensurate with the benefit likely to be achieved".

Sir, thus we get a sample of how the Government takes up its responsibility in this matter of the "Grow More Food" campaign. The Government spends money on the "Grow More Food" campaign, because they have been asked to do so by the India Government, or probably because it is the latest fashion. A war is on and you must spend! The Government do not feel any need to watch the results of the spending, whether the results achieved are commensurate with the amount of money spent. Is it not really deplorable that even at this fifth year of the war, we in Bengal do not have any dependable agricultural statistics, which constitute the only measure of framing plans and enforcing responsibility?

Sir, we know that it is futile to look for any long range plans for agricultural betterment to take shape immediately. But we can at least have the beginnings or *interim* short-term measures which can be intelligently linked up later on in the lines of the main policy. There are for examples, the broad aspects of irrigation, rural credit, and scientific agriculture, and the collection of agricultural statistics and data. The need is there to have a central plan of co-ordination and control and a periodic programme of increased farm production. We are as yet in the dark about having any such agricultural planning in Bengal. Yet there is hardly any other way of solving our problems of food and famine; unless the activities of the Government have been paralysed by the storms and stresses of the present abnormal situation, I think that our Government must have a long-term plan covering the important items of agricultural production.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion to raise a discussion about huge forest area lying in Chittagong district which is no longer required for forest purpose not being reclaimed for growing food crops in spite of the application made by the cultivators of the locality.

মাননীয় স্পীকার সাহেব, আমি আমার নামের মোসনটা move করিতেছি।

সর্ব্বপ্রথমে আমি আমাদের মাননীয় কৃষি-মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে তাঁর চেষ্টার জন্য আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করিতেছি। এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে তাঁকে দেখাইয়া দিতেছি যে তিনি কোন্ জায়গায় কিভাবে খাদ্যশস্য অধিকভাবে উৎপন্ন করিতে পারেন। আমি অনুরোধ করিতেছি তিনি আমার কথিত জিনিষগুলির দিকে যেন অনুগ্রহ করিয়া লক্ষ্য করেন। চট্টগ্রাম জেলার জঙ্গলের বাইরে ২৬২৭-২৮, ভূমির মধ্যে হাজার একরের উপর নাল জমি পতিত রহিয়াছে। আমি অনুরোধ করি মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে—অন্য দিকে মন না দিয়া আমার কথাগুলি শুনবেন। (DR. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: আপনি বলে যান উনি মনযোগ দিয়েই শুনছেন।) পূর্ব্বে ঐ জমিগুলি নাল জমি ছিল। ওগুলি Forest Departmentএর আওতার মাঝখানে পড়িয়াছে; কিন্তু তার জন্য ফরেষ্ট বিভাগের একটি পয়সাও income নাই। অথচ এই জমিগুলি জনসাধারণকে দিলে তারা উহাতে ধান্য এবং রবিশস্য উৎপাদন করিতে পারে কিন্তু সে ব্যবস্থা করা হইতেছে না। স্বয়ং জেলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট ঐ জায়গায় যাইয়া জমিগুলি দেখিয়াছেন এবং আমাকে বলিয়াছিলেন যে "যদি দেশের গরীব চাষীরা জমিগুলি চাষের জন্য প্রার্থনা করে তাহা হইলে এই জমি তাদের এই বৎসরেই দেওয়া যাইতে পারে।" তারপর ২৪ জন লোক ঐ জমির জন্য প্রার্থনা করে এবং খাস মহলের ডেপুটি জোরের সঙ্গে তাহাদের case recommend করেন, কিন্তু Forest Department বলিয়াছেন, "আমাদের আওতার মাঝখানে জনসাধারণকে

আসতে দেওয়াতে আমাদের পক্ষে সুবিধা হইবে না।" এইত অবস্থা! গভর্ণমেণ্টের খাস দখলে যে জমি আছে তা যদি গভর্ণমেণ্ট দিতে রাজি না হন তাহা হইলে পাব্লিক জমি পাবে কোথায়? নিজেদের গায়ের চামড়া বিছিয়ে দিলে তো আর ধান উৎপন্ন হবে না, বা নূতন জমি পাবার কোন উপায়ও হবে না। লোকদের যার যে জমি তারা তাতে চেষ্টা করিয়া ধান্য উৎপন্ন করিতেছে, কিন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্ট অতগুলি জমি পতিত রাখিয়া দিয়াছেন তাহাতে কোন শস্যই উৎপন্ন করিতেছেন না। জেলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট বা কালেক্টর রিপোর্ট দিলে তাহা Forest বিভাগ শুনিবেন না, আবার Forest বিভাগ রিপোর্ট দিলে তাহা গভর্ণমেণ্ট শুনিবেন না, এইভাবে ছিনিমিনি খেলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে অন্যায়।

এই সম্পর্কে কৃষি-মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করিতেছি চাষের পক্ষে আর একটি অতি প্রয়োজনীয় জিনিষের প্রতি মনযোগ দিতে। সেটা হইতেছে গরু আর মহিষ। এই দুইটি জিনিষই চাষের পক্ষে অত্যন্ত প্রয়োজন। এ সম্বন্ধে আমি পূর্ব্বেও বলিয়াছি, কিন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্ট চট্টগ্রাম জেলা যা নাকি বর্ত্তমানে war zoneএ পরিণত হইয়াছে সেখানে আবশ্যকমত ভাল গরু ও মহিষ পাঠাইবার ব্যবস্থা করিতেছেন না। আমি জানি একটি চাষীর ২১টি মহিষ ছিল, সব মরিয়া গেছে, তার ১৪টি গরুও মারা গেছে। অথচ টাকা দিয়াও গরু বা মহিষ সেখানে খরিদ করিবার উপায় নাই। তার ৩০।৪০ জন মেম্বর স্ত্রীপুত্র লইয়া, যদি নিজের কাঁধে লাঙ্গল দিয়া নিজের খাওয়ার মতন ধান্য উৎপাদনের চেষ্টাও সে করে তাহা হইলে নিজের খাইবার মতন শস্যও সে করিতে পারিবে না। আমি মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করি আমাদের মতন বোমার ভয় ফেলে দিয়ে চট্টগ্রামে যাইয়া একবার চট্টগ্রামবাসীর দুঃখ স্বচক্ষে দেখিয়া তাহা মোচন করিবেন।

(At this stage the House was adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion, Sir, with a view to raising a discussion about the wasteful expenditure on that account.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other day when I was hearing Mr. Walker reading out his fine speech in connection with the budget of the Fishery Department and putting forward a plea for the expansion of, that is more appointments in, that department, I was wondering whether or not the speech had been drafted by the Director of Fisheries, Bengal. I shall be glad to hear that it was not so but there can be no doubt that Dr. Hora's articles on Paddy Cultivation and Fish Culture, published in "Indian Farming" of April and May, 1943, contributed much of the material of the speech. It is somewhat curious indeed that Fishery here is deemed to have more affinity with Industries than with Agriculture although Livestock and Animal husbandry are deemed to be sufficiently related to it.

Now, Sir, one of the departments that have chosen to feed fat on the carrions left by the famine and to prosper in the unprecedented adversity that has overtaken this province is Agriculture. "Agriculture" and "Extraordinary Charges" and "Famine" have chosen to share between them the loot that is going on the expenditure side of our budget. Apart from extravagance in the name of "allowances," "contingencies," and "job-work" they have brought into existence an army of officers which some

think may be superior in number to the victorious army of Russia. Yet what a debacle, defeat, disaster was not suffered through famine, that is, failure of food crops last year.

Mr. Kennedy of the European group tabled a question enquiring about the area of cultivable waste land and how much of it could be brought under food crops. For the area he need not have troubled his friend, the Hon'ble Minister. He could have found the total area of such land from Tables I and II of the Agricultural Statistics published by the Government and should not have allowed his friend an opportunity to understate the area of such land. However the answer has brought out one thing, namely, that even now the Minister in charge is unaware how much of such land can be brought under food crops. Yet, we must assume, in the opinion of Mr. Kennedy and his group, that the Ministry is applying its mind to the question of rehabilitation. Who does not know, Sir, that the landless labourers have suffered most during the famine? And what can be more urgent than to find lands for such of them as are still alive? Why then the agricultural conquest of cultivable waste could not be attempted and furthered on the assumption that most of such lands could be brought under the plough and why the Hon'ble Minister, unless he had chosen merely to enjoy his *gadi*, could not have come out with a statement of the increased area sown in the current year or proposed to be sown in the next year, if the Ministry had an idea of extending the area under food crops or of rehabilitation of the landless?

Sir, the departmental figures of waste and cultivated lands for the years 1937 and 1942 appear as follows from the official agricultural statistics:—

	1937 Acres.	1942 Acres.
Total area of the Province as ascertained by professional survey. ..	49,254,596	50,373,332
Less—		
1. Forest ..	4,455,316	4,612,832
2. Not available for cultivation ..	9,692,231	9,601,141
3. Culturable waste other than fallow ..	5,949,866	6,052,987
4. Current fallow ..	4,690,883	4,618,072
	10,640,749	10,671,059
Net area shown ..	24,466,300	25,488,300

It will be seen therefore that the increase in the net area sown between 1937 and 1942 up to which statistics are available is less than the increase in the net total area and is therefore illusory and that there is no decrease, in fact some increase, in the total area of culturable waste and current fallow. Assuming that the increase in the sown area is real and not apparent, that is, due to the correction of past mistake, how does it stand in comparison with the other countries at war? In an article contributed by Sir John Russell, Director of Rothamstead Experimental Station, Herts

(England), it appears that—I am quoting—"In peace-time the United Kingdom had 13 million acres of arable land and 19 million acres of permanent grass. At mid-March, 1942, Mr. Hudson informed us the figures were reversed and there soon would be 19 million acres of arable land. The additional 6 million acres had gone into a variety of crops; oats had taken about 1½ million, the wheat acreage had been increased by more than 550,000 acres and the potato crop by more than 300,000 acres over the peace-time acreage of 1·6 million of wheat and 700,000 of potatoes. Vegetables also increased from 2·5 million tons in 1938 to 4 million tons; sugar beet, it was hoped, would be raised by 60,000 acres to 405,000 which was all the existing factories could cope with". Sir, could we, who were drawn into the war together with the United Kingdom, bring 6 million additional acres under the plough here as they did in England between late 1939 and early 1942, the catastrophe of 1943 could have to a great extent been averted. But, nothing can be more unfortunate than to find our Agricultural Department still unprepared to extend the area of cultivation in a province of which only about 50 per cent. stands cultivated. It is said they stand for promoting intensive cultivation. But what is the provision for extending the facilities of manure? Six lakhs only against a provision of 44 lakhs for job work! Ammonia sulphate cannot be produced in large quantities on short notice. True, but where is the provision for adequate supply of green manure and composts. The fanfare with which the water-hyacinth Act was passed not long ago held out the hope not only of its eradication but of the supply of a cheap manure from its ashes. That is yet an unrealised hope. Yet, intensive production is talked of glibly because exaggerated and unverifiable claims can be made with impunity.

The best illustration of the failure of the Agriculture Department to grow more food is furnished by the tragic history of the sugarcane in Bengal. India outside Bengal has turned from an importer to an exporter of sugar in course of a few years. But Bengal remains a large importer and dependent on outside supply. It was said in the Government resolution on the Report of the Department of Agriculture for the year 1935-36:—

> "That the value of sugarcane as a revenue crop has been recognised by the cultivator would be apparent from the fact that the area under the crop increased from 276,000 acres to 325,000 acres during the year, of which 244,000 acres were reported to be under Co. 213 During the year 19,072,000 of Co. 213 cuttings were distributed."

That was in 1935-36.

In the next year it was further announced by the Special Officer in his report for the year 1936-37 that the total area under sugarcane has increased to 354,800 acres. In course of five years, notwithstanding all expenditure on research, special officer's and mycologist's activities, the departmental report for 1941-42, the latest available in the Assembly Library, says:—

> "The total area planted is estimated at 313,900 acres this year as against 331,100 acres last year. The average outturn has been worked out at 77 per cent. of the normal as against 81 per cent. last year. The gross outturn of the province has been estimated at 4,795,000 tons as against 5,320,000 tons last year."

Further it is observed:—

"The following points have emerged out of the work and observations on sugarcane:—

(a) That Co. 213 has outlived its popularity. The cultivators are reluctant to continue its growing. It has been found to be specially susceptible to the fungus disease red-rot. It is being replaced by the variety Co. 421.

(b) That the fungus disease red-rot has taken a firm foothold in Bengal. It has been reported from almost every district in Bengal. Another menace to sugarcane cultivation is the alarming spread of the borers specially in the districts in North Bengal."

Sir, such is the achievement of our Agriculture Department manned with Special Officers, Mycologist, Entomologist, Chemist, Director and Assistant Directors appointed according to all the points of the compass. Well may it be said in a poetic vein: Wasteful, unproductive extravagance, thy name is the Agriculture Department of the Government of Bengal!

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the callous indifference of the Government of the country, want of policy and planned programme to increase the productoin, mere red-tapism and no organised activities and want of contact with the masses.

Sir, it is a fact that the Government of Bengal have been maintaining the Department of Agriculture since a pretty long time and several crores of good money of the tax-payer have been spent for the purpose. The tax-payer has got every right to demand of the Government to tell the people what benefits they have obtained in return for the huge sums of money spent so far for maintaining the department from year to year.

Sir, this province is a deficit province in the matter of foodgrains, particularly rice, the staple food crop of the Bengalees. From the figures available since 1901, it appears that production has not increased to any appreciable extent although the population has increased by millions and the pressure on land has increased many times more with the growth of the population.

The Government of the country has got no crop policy nor any planned programme to tackle one of the most vital problems affecting the welfare of the province, viz., the increase of production so as to make the province self-supporting at least in the matter of her food requirements. Whatever produce is being raised on land by agricultural operations from year to year is solely due to the efforts of the illiterate cultivator with his primitive methods with which he is acquainted.

The callous indifference and culpable negligence on the part of the Government had its effect upon the country during the present crisis and the people of the country had to pay the extreme penalty for it. Hundreds of thousands of our people had to die for want of food—a tragedy that never happened in any other country in the world within living memory. If even a fraction of what had happened in this province during the past few

months would have happened in Great Britain or America, Mr. Churchill or Mr. Roosevelt, however high and eminent personalities they may be, would have been dragged down from the high pedestal of office to sink into oblivion for eternity. But, Sir, the same value is not attached to human lives in this unfortunate country.

Sir, if we dive a little deeper into the working of this department, we shall find a number of high salaried officers at the top with big secretariats and sprinkling of workers here and there in the countryside. Their activities are confined to distribution of leaflets, of seeds, etc., and of submission of reports from time to time. Distribution of leaflets and of seeds, etc., can be easily done through some other agencies at a less cost because they do not require expert knowledge.

Preservation and storing of seeds is the most important work of a cultivator and he selects the seeds and preserves them with the utmost care and caution. He never uses paddy set apart for consumption as seeds. But, Sir, last year this department purchased paddy brought in open markets for sale for the purpose of consumption and they distributed them as seeds. Last year in the Sadar subdivision of the Noakhali district the seeds supplied by the department did not germinate.

Sir, the department has got absolutely no contact with the masses of cultivators in the rural areas. They have got no machinery nor any village organisation for the purpose. They have got no imagination nor any idea of organisation. They have got no plan nor any programme. Unless a network of organisation—at least one in each union—throughout the province is established to come into close contact with the cultivators in the rural areas, it is impossible to achieve any practical results.

As to experimental farm, if the figures relating to expenditure and receipts from year to year since when these farms had been started are studied, it would be clear that these farms are being kept on at a huge loss from year to year. The management is extravagant and hopeless. In 1942-43 the actual expenditure incurred is Rs. 2,50,000 and the corresponding receipt amounts to Rs. 1,93,419 the loss being about Rs. 57,000. The revised estimate of 1943-44 places the expenditure at Rs. 3,55,000 and the receipt at Rs. 74,000. The estimates of the coming year place the expenditure at Rs. 4,12,000 and the receipt at Rs. 2,03,000. This state of things cannot inspire confidence into the minds of the cultivators. They will never emulate their example and reduce themselves to bankruptcy.

As to the "Grow More Food" campaign the less said the better. In reply to question No. 193 put by a European member of this House, the Hon'ble Minister stated that cultivable waste land has been surveyed along with other lands in the course of survey and settlement operations. No separate survey has been made. Without a detailed survey it is not possible to say how much of the cultivable waste land can be brought under food crops or under paddy alone. The survey and settlement operations took place 25 years back and from the settlement *khatian* the Hon'ble Minister gives the percentage of waste lands. This is the way how the "Grow More Food" campaign is going to be organised in this country.

With these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. M. A. F. HIRTZEL: Sir, the subject on which I wish to speak is that of Bengal's agricultural statistics. It is an old, a short and a bad story. It is the fact, Sir, that in Bengal apart from jute statistics there are no crop statistics deserving the name. I need not enter into detail: the position is known and accepted by all responsible persons. The position is known to the Hon'ble Minister and was recognised by him last September when in reply to my cut motion he said: "We fully realise that there is no reliable machinery for the collection of crop statistics in Bengal and we are seriously considering to set up a machinery on the lines of those which are in vogue in the United Provinces and the Punjab and I think, Sir, within the next three months this scheme will materialise."

Well, Sir, three months have become six months and we on this side are both surprised and disappointed to find that no provision has been made and no progress has been made with the scheme for seasonal collection of crop statistics as announced by Government sometime ago.

Recently, Sir, we were told that certain methods had been tried and had failed. I do not know whether that is correct. It is, however obvious to any thinking person, it is obvious *a priori* and should have been obvious to Government and its advisers when framing policy that, if there are two methods of measuring crops, and if one is condemned as worthless and if the other is not grounded on complete certainty by actual enumeration, then it will always be open to critics to question the accuracy of the results achieved by the alternative method. Now, Sir, let us assume for the sake of argument that that is the position today. Everyone has condemned the Director of Agriculture's statistics. Let us assume that the Director of Agriculture has tried and has failed to produce more convincing results. Let us assume that Dr. Sanyal was correct in saying that the alternative method, the method of random sampling, has been tried and has produced equally unconvincing results. The department would be in a fix. They would have lost their poor man's gamble on the chance that random sampling would produce consistent results and they would not know what to do.

Now, Sir, it seems to me that it is a matter of logical inference that either the Ministry has done nothing in the matter or else it is in that fix. It seems to me that there were such wide margins of possible error in the Director's methods that it is a virtual certainty that any other method which was not based on actual observation would in one or two cases produce seeming "absurdities" when compared with his figures. Now once admit even one such absurdity and there are any number of possible explanations, none of them factual. The random sampling result may in fact be right though it looks absurd or it may be that the field party failed or it may be that sample selection failed, and so on. No one can say for certain; that one doubt throws the whole system into doubt.

Understand me, Sir, I am assuming that the Ministry is in that fix; it is, let us say, in a dilemma between two doubtful results. I am not condemning random sampling. I am not saying that it is a bad method or that if money was spent on it that money was wasted. But I am saying that if that is the position we still do not know the facts regarding the area under any particular crop other than jute. We have no more than alternative answers and complete enumeration might prove that the random

sampling answer is correct. Now if complete enumeration proves that the random sampling result is in fact correct then we have established the accuracy, within known margins of error, of random sampling as a method. Random sampling is quick and economical, but we must prove its accuracy.

Therefore, Sir, it follows as a logical certainty that the next step is complete enumeration which should be carried out concurrently with a continuance of random sampling. Why? Because it seems to me that probably at least two years are necessary to put complete enumeration on a basis which will be satisfactory and beyond criticism. Assuming that we already have one year's results from random sampling, at the end of another two years we shall have three years' figures by random sampling to compare with one set of known reliable figures by complete enumeration. Now suppose that the annual cost of random sampling is one-sixth of the annual cost of complete enumeration, in three years it will have cost half of what complete enumeration costs in one year. It is therefore well worth a little extra expense now to decide once and for all the value of random sampling. If, on the other hand, we now indulge in complete enumeration and put random sampling on the shelf it is safe to prophesy that it will take many, many years and much pressure to get it off the shelf again. During all that time, which may be measured in years if not in decades, we shall be paying six times as much for the facts as we need if we can once establish beyond doubt the reasonable accuracy of random sampling. Let random sampling then go ahead along with complete enumeration.

Now, Sir, I come to the most important factor of all, namely, the time factor. When I refer to this as the most important factor I am well aware that the financial pundits if they are listening will groan at my stupidity. I am not going to engage in a game of *tu quoque* and I will only ask them whether they have found it easy to pay for last year's famine. I need not wait for an answer. But, Sir, they must admit that they have found it easier to pay by reason of the war situation which has enabled them to invoke the aid of the Centre and they have given every assurance that they intend to step up that bill. Now suppose that such a situation arose in times of peace. Suppose it arose in circumstances when there was no chance of public propaganda putting the blame on the Secretary of State, when the British public's conscience—and the British public has a strong and a humane conscience—when that conscience was not even indirectly pricked by what happened in Bengal. Suppose that the Government of India of the day had no immediate, vital strategic interest in relieving famine in Bengal and was prepared to say unequivocally that the relief of famine was the obligation of the province, where then will our future Governments find themselves? Now, Sir, none of those suppositions is impossible, they are not even remote possibilities. There is every likelihood that that will be the situation in the not distant future. In those days if help comes neither from the East nor from the West the successors of the present Ministry and our successors in this House in their agony will blame us here and now for our failure to plan.

Now, Sir, I ask your careful attention to the following figures. I have not attempted to take "actual" figures because they are a matter of controversy. I have taken round figures which are near enough to the truth for

my purpose and will illustrate my point. Now, if the population of Bengal was 60 millions in 1942 and the annual increase is 2 per cent., by the end of 1950, i.e., in 6½ years' time from now, the population will be over 70 millions. An increase of 10 million mouths to fill, and how? If in 1942 75 lakhs of tons of rice ensured a bare sufficiency of food, by the end of 1950, 87½ lakhs of tons will be needed or an increase of 16⅔ per cent. Now, Sir, if a 12-anna paddy crop is a good crop and was sufficient to maintain existence in 1942, by 1950 a 14-anna crop will be necessary for the same purpose. But, Sir, there are lean years and there are fat years and the crop may vary from 8 annas to 16 annas. Only science and the most careful application of it by dispassionate planning will save Bengal from the fate that awaits her. Now, Sir, there are 3 possible solutions (1) to reduce the population or arrest its increase, (2) to increase the productivity of the area at present under paddy and (3) to increase the area under paddy. We may leave aside the first of these. No one wishes to reduce the population. Nature will do that for us quick enough and that is what we are fighting against. And the third alternative is equally objectionable if the aim is a balanced rural economy. Suppose that paddy was the only crop grown in Bengal. In lean years agriculturists will survive, in fat years they will be ruined. The inevitable consequence of giving an increasing percentage of the existing cultivated area to the production of consumption crops will be a steady deterioration of the economic condition of the people. If, on the other hand, the total area under cultivation is steadily increased that can only be at the expense of grazing land and forests. The consequences of that will follow early and will be as destructive as famine. There will be soil erosion and disastrous floods due to deforestation. It is in all probability to those very causes that the world's great deserts, once fertile irrigated plains, owe their origin. Sir, there is only one solution which stands scientific scrutiny and that is to increase the productivity of the area under paddy. Now before intensive and planned activity can even begin we must know the extent of the area under cultivation. We must have a close knowledge of the soil in each area and must intensively, scientifically and in detail correlate our improved types of seed to the nature of the soil.

Sir, I need take no more of the time of the House. I have said enough, I feel sure, to convince the Ministry and to convince the House that this is a matter of the utmost urgency. We must have, and we must have at the earliest possible date, both a complete enumeration of the areas under crops in the province and the most accurate and up-to-date methods of estimating crops growing on those lands. I know that it will cost a certain number of lakhs, but our failure to spend, say Rs. 30 lakhs, now will mean a loss of Rs. 30 crores and more in a year or two, and we shall stand condemned as the worst type of small-minded man, the man who, though he might save himself by timely action, fails to do so through apathy and avarice.

In conclusion, Sir, I will only stress that in addition to the general extreme urgency of this matter which I have sought to stress, there is immediate urgency in it for if immediate steps are not taken it will be too late to do anything in respect of the coming *aus* and *aman* crops.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I appreciate the anxiety of Mr. Hirtzel to have proper statistics kept in the province for our agricultural products and in a way I endorse some of his remarks regarding the absurdities that have been revealed so far. He made certain reference to my humble self in his observations. I only seek two minutes' time to clear up my feelings in that respect. Sir, the process of random sampling is at once helpful and dangerous. (Mr. M. A. F. HIRTZEL: That is what I said.) I feel as a student of statistics myself that in selecting fields for such random sampling, if a certain amount of representative data are not kept in view, the result may lead to cumulative errors and the consequent statistical data obtainable will be far from facts. If, on the other hand, sampling is made of representative fields scattered throughout the province and in such a manner that all different classes and varieties are properly represented, then alone we can to some extent rely on the process of random sampling as giving results almost near about the reality. As has, however, been found the exeperts that have been so far entrusted with this task have not given Government detailed information about the place or places where they have carried out their sampling work and in particular with regard to the last *amàn* crop when I sought to criticise the results obtained from the experts' random sampling, I had that in view. What we want, Sir, is not merely a two-paged report as a result but we also want to know how that two-paged report is obtained, so that one may judge whether the statistical results obtained are based on fairly dependable enumeration.

Sir, the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture is, as I have stated here before, one of the most outspoken and frank members of the Cabinet and I have great respect for him that he at any rate will not try to deceive the House with inadequate information or false information. If he is not satisfied with the method of obtaining statistics, I am sure that he will, in his mature judgment, try to find out how more dependable statistics can be obtained, and I believe in so doing he will not merely depend on so-called expert advice but also exercise his own mature observation and experience.

Maulvi MD. MOZAMMEL HUQ: মাননীয় সভামুখ্য মহোদয়, (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: এই যে আমাদের কবি সাহেব উঠেছেন), এইতো আমি উঠতে না উঠতেই আপনারা গণ্ডগোল আরম্ভ করিলেন। এতক্ষণ আপনাদের কথা শুনিলাম, এখন আমাদের কথা আপনারা শান্তভাবে একটু শুনুন।

মাননীয় সভামুখ্য মহোদয়, মাননীয় কৃষি-মন্ত্রী মহোদয় কৃষি বিভাগের ১৯৪৪-৪৫ সনের বাজেটের দাবী মঞ্জুরীর জন্য অদ্য আমাদের সমক্ষে পেশ করিয়াছেন। বাংলা কৃষি-প্রধান দেশ; বাংলার শতকরা ৮০ জন লোক কৃষি দ্বারা জীবিকা নির্ব্বাহ করে; সেই জন্য কৃষি সম্বন্ধে দুই একটি কথা আজ আমি বলিতে চাই। (Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: আমরাও শুনতে চাই।) বন্ধুগণ, একটু ধীরে সুস্থে শুনিবেন, ব্যস্ত হইবেন না। Facts and figures দিয়াই আমি বলিব। (Mr. ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: বেশী ধীরে সুস্থে বল্লে লাল বাতি জ্বলবে।) Sir, সহসা লাল বাতিটা যেন জ্বালাবেন না। সময় আমি একটু চাই, নচেৎ সব কথা বলা যাইবে না। Floud Commission (ফ্লাউড কমিশন)এর রিপোর্ট অনুসারে বাংলায় ২ কোটি ৫৩ লক্ষ একর জমিতে ধানের চাষ হইয়া থাকে। এখানে culturable waste land (বা কর্ষণোপযোগী পতিত জমি) আছে ৩৭ লক্ষ ৫ হাজার একর। আর রেলওয়ে surplus

lands (বা অতিরিক্ত জমি) হইতেছে এক লক্ষ একর। ইহা দ্বারা দেখা যাইতেছে বাংলা দেশে ২ কোটী ৮৮ লক্ষ ৫ হাজার একর জমিতে ধান জন্মান যাইতে পারে।

১৯৪৩-৪৪ সনে ২ কোটি ৫০ লক্ষ একর জমিতে ধান তো হইয়াছেই, তদুপরি যে surplus ৩৭ লক্ষ ৫ হাজার একর জমি পতিত পড়িয়াছিল তাহার মধ্যে হইতে ৮ লক্ষ একরে ধানের আবাদ করা হইয়াছে। কাজেই এবারে—বর্ত্তমান বৎসরে (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: এই রকম শোনা যাচ্ছে)—শোনা যাচ্ছে নয়, facts and figure দ্বারা দেখাইতেছি; আপনারা অনর্থক আমাকে যা তা question করিয়া সময় নষ্ট করিবেন না। (A MEMBER; Facts and figureটা বলুন না।) Facts and figure হইতেছে এই যে ২ কোটি ৫৮ লক্ষ একরে এ বৎসর ধান উৎপন্ন হইয়াছে। তাহা হইলেও আমাদের বাকী আরো ৩০ লক্ষ ৫ হাজার একর জমি অনাবাদি পড়িয়া রহিয়াছে। সে পতিত জমিগুলি আমাদের আবাদ করিতে হইবে।

এখন দেখা যাক, প্রতি বৎসর বাংলা দেশে কত চাউল উৎপন্ন হয়। ৮৮ লক্ষ টন চাউল বাংলা দেশে প্রতি বৎসর উৎপন্ন হয়। বর্ত্তমান লোক সংখ্যা আমাদের বাংলা দেশে কত তাহা আপনারা বোধ হয় সকলেই জানেন। ১৯৪১ সনের সেন্সাস অনুসারে বাংলার লোক সংখ্যা হইতেছে ৬ কোটির কিছু উপর। এখন এই ৬ কোটি লোকের প্রত্যেক লোক প্রত্যহ আধ সের করিয়া চাউল খাইলে প্রত্যেক লোকের জন্য বৎসরে ৪॥ মণ করিয়া চাউলের দরকার। তাহা হইলে ৬ কোটি লোকের জন্য বাংলা দেশে প্রতি বৎসর ২৭ কোটি মণ বা এক কোটি টন চাউলের দরকার। ইহার মধ্যে বাংলা দেশে চাউল উৎপন্ন হয় ৮৮ লক্ষ টন। সুতরাং দেখা যাইতেছে যে আমাদের উৎপন্ন ৮৮ লক্ষ টন চাউল ১ কোটি টন হইতে বাদ দিলে ১২ লক্ষ টন চাউল প্রতি বৎসর ঘাট্‌তি পড়ে। (Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: তা' হলেই অবস্থাটা ভাবুন!) আগে সবটা শুনুন, তারপর মন্তব্য করিবেন। (Laughter.) আমি উপরে যে হিসাব দিয়াছি তাহা প্রত্যেক লোককে এক এক বেলায় ৴।০ (এক পোয়া) চাউল করিয়া খাইতে দেওয়ার হার অনুসারে। কিন্তু Floud Commission (ফ্লাউড কমিশন) যাহাদের আমরা অত টাকা খরচ করিয়া নিযুক্ত করিয়াছিলাম, তাঁহারা লোককে অত কম খাইতে দিতে নারাজ। তাঁহারা বলিয়াছেন প্রত্যেক লোককে বৎসরে ৯ মণ ধান বা ৬ মণ চাউল খাইতে দিতে হইবে। (Mr. ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: ধান খাবে কি করে?) (Laughter.) আবার আপনারা গোলমাল করছেন!! এসব অত্যন্ত দরকারী কথায়ও আপনারা ঠাট্টা তামাসা ছাড়া অন্য কিছু জানেন না! আমার পূর্ব্ব প্রদত্ত হিসাবে ৪॥০ মণের স্থানে ৬ মণ চাউল যদি প্রত্যেক লোকের জন্য দিতে হয় তাহা হইলে ৬ কোটি লোকের জন্য বৎসরে ৩৬ কোটি মণ চাউলের দরকার। অর্থাৎ ১ কোটি ৩৩ লক্ষ টন চাউল চাই। বর্ত্তমানে আমাদের হয় মাত্র ৮৮ লক্ষ টন। সুতরাং এই হিসাব অনুসারে দেখা যায় বাংলা দেশে ৪৫ লক্ষ টন চাউলের ঘাটতি হইয়াছে। এই যে দুর্ভিক্ষ হইয়াছে ইহার কারণও তাই। আপনারা এখন স্থিরভাবে বিষয়টা চিন্তা করুন। (Mr. SYED AHMED: আর আপনারা দালালি করে লাভ করুন।) মন্ত্রীদের অনবরত এবং সময়ে অসময়ে গালাগালি না দিয়া এখন ঐ ৪৫ লক্ষ টন চাউল বাংলা দেশে কি করিয়া উৎপন্ন করা যাইতে পারে, এবং ততোধিক, বাংলা দেশকে কি করিয়া surplus provinceএ পরিণত করা যাইতে পারে, সেই দিকে লক্ষ্য রাখিয়া যাহাতে ঐ ৩০ লক্ষ ৫ হাজার একর পতিত জমি আবাদ করিয়া বাংলার দুর্ভিক্ষ নিবারণ করা যাইতে পারে তজ্জন্য আমি বিরোধীদলের হিন্দু-মুসলমান সভ্যদের সকলকেই বলিতেছি—আসুন, সকলে মিলিয়া এপারে আসুন—এবং এপারে আসিয়া আপনাদের সকলের আন্তরিক সহযোগিতা দ্বারা মন্ত্রিবগুলীকে দুর্ভিক্ষ নিবারণ করিয়া সর্ব্বহারাদের মুখে যাহাতে দুমুঠো আহার

দেওয়া যায় তজ্জন্য সাহায্য করুন। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয়, আমাদের বিরুদ্ধ দলের বন্ধুগণ বাংলার এই দুর্ভিক্ষ-নিবারণ-কার্য্যে গভর্ণমেণ্টকে কিছুমাত্র সাহায্য না করিয়া কেবল মন্ত্রিত্ব ভাঙ্গিয়া দিয়া নিজেদের মন্ত্রিসভা গঠনের বৃথা চেষ্টায় সময় ও শক্তির অপব্যবহার করিয়াই আসিতেছেন। (Mr. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: ব্যয়ের বরাদ্দই যে আপনারা করছেন আমরা অপব্যয়ও করবো কোথা থেকে?) সেইজন্যই তো আপনারা প্রত্যেক বক্তাই এই বক্তৃতা দিয়াছেন যে মন্ত্রীরা কিছু করে নাই, আর কেবল বলিয়া থাকেন—তাদের এটা খারাপ, ওটা খারাপ—সব কটি মন্ত্রীই অপদার্থ—তাহারা কিছুই করে না ইত্যাদি—এসব শুনিতে শুনিতে আমাদের কান একেবারেই ঝালাপালা হইয়া গিয়াছে। এ সকল কথায় আর এখন ভবি ভুলিবে না। আপনাদের opposition (বিরোধিতা) যে কেবল for opposition's sake (বিরোধিতার জন্যই) একথাটা এখন দেশের লোক খুব ভাল করিয়াই বুঝিয়া ফেলিয়াছে। আপনাদের এই ভুয়া বিরোধিতা বা ভুয়া চেষ্টা দ্বারা দেশের সর্ব্বসাধারণকে আর ভুলাইতে পারিবেন না—তাহারা আপনাদের নূতন মন্ত্রিসভা গঠনের কুমতলবের চেষ্টার বিষয় সম্পূর্ণরূপে বুঝিয়া ফেলিয়াছে। এ খেল খেলিয়া আর কোন লাভ হইবে না। এ চেষ্টা ত্যাগ করুন। তাই আপনাদের আবারও বলিতেছি আপনারা সকলে মিলিয়া আসুন যাহাতে বাংলা দেশে দুর্ভিক্ষ আর না হয় তাহার জন্য আমাদের সঙ্গে মিলিয়া মিশিয়া সকলে চেষ্টা করুন; এবং তাহার একমাত্র উপায় ঐ ঘাটতি পূরণ করা। তাহা হইলে আর আমাদিগকে U. P., C. P. পাঞ্জাব, সিন্ধু, আসাম ও বিহার প্রভৃতি প্রদেশের দুয়ারে দুয়ারে খাদ্যের জন্য ঘুরিতে হইবে না। (Mr. ABDUL WAHED: আর পাঞ্জাবের গম বেচে লাভ করাও চলবে না।) Sir, আবার ওদিক থেকে কথা বলা হচ্ছে। আমাদের দেশের লোকের ঘরে ঘরে হাহাকার—হা অন্ন, হা অন্ন রব যখন উঠিয়াছিল, যখন লোকে না খাইয়া অনাহারে মরিতেছিল, তখন আমাদের Ministerরা লোকদের বাঁচাইবার জন্য কি কি চেষ্টা করিয়াছেন, আপনারা তাহা জানেন, হয়ত খবরের কাগজেও দেখিয়া থাকিবেন। (A VOICE: জানি, জানি, সবই জানি!!) জানিলেও স্বীকার করিবেন না। ও পক্ষকে বলিয়া কিছু লাভ নাই। ও পক্ষ জানিয়াও স্বীকার করিবেন না। আপনাকেই বলি Sir, আপনি স্বীকার করিবেন। আমাদের Civil Supply এর মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় বাংলার দুর্ভিক্ষ নিবারণের জন্য পাঞ্জাব, সিন্ধু, U.P., C.P., বিহার প্রভৃতি প্রদেশে অনবরত বিরাম-বিশ্রামহীনভাবে রাত্রদিন ঘুরিয়া ঘুরিয়া কত চাল, কত গম, কত বাজরা জোয়ার দাল আটা প্রভৃতি বাংলায় আনিয়াছেন, এবং তাহা দ্বারা লোককে বাঁচাইয়াছেন, তাহা আপনি জানেন। (Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN: আর কত লুট করিয়াছেন তাও উনি জানেন।) আবার ঐ ওঁরা গোলমাল সুরু করিলেন!!

Mr. SPEAKER: আপনি আমার দিকে তাকিয়ে বলুন।

Maulvi Md. MOZAMMEL HUQ: আমি বলিতেছি Sir, আপনার দিকে তাকাইয়াই বলিতেছি, ওঁদের দিকে তাকাইব না। আমি বলিতেছি যে, আর ঐ রকম ভিক্ষুকের মতন ঘুরিয়া ঘুরিয়া অন্য প্রদেশে যাইব না। ও পক্ষের মেম্বরদের যদি লজ্জা সরম থাকিয়া থাকে তবে কেবল মন্ত্রীদের অযথা গালাগালি না দিয়া আমাদের দেশের চাউলের ঘাটতি নিবারণের জন্য পতিত জমিগুলি আবাদের বন্দোবস্ত করিতে আমাদের সঙ্গে তাহাদের কার্য্যে অগ্রসর হওয়া উচিত। কেবল গালি দিয়া কোন লাভ হইবে না, বরং আসুন সকলে মিলিয়া চেষ্টা করিয়া এই প্রদেশকে surplus provinceএ পরিণত করিতে লাগিয়া যাই। আমরা এই Assemblyর ২৫০ জন মেম্বর আছি, আমরা সকলে মিলিয়া আন্তরিক চেষ্টা করিলে কিনা করিতে পারি? যদি আমরা—(At this stage the red light was shown) Sir, লালবাতি জ্বালাবেন না। আপনি অপর পক্ষদের অনেক time দেন আমাকে একটু time দিতে হইবে, আমার অনেক কথা বলিবার আছে।

Mr. SPEAKER : আপনাকে অনেক time দেয়া হয়েছে, আর বেশী time দিতে পারবো না, আর একটু বলে শেষ করুন।

Maulvi Md. MOZAMMEL HUQ : যাক, বিরুদ্ধ পক্ষদের আমি চোখে আঙ্গুল দিয়া দেখাইতেছি আমাদের মন্ত্রীরা কি করিয়াছেন। ইহারা মাত্র ১১ মাস ৩ দিন হইল মন্ত্রিত্ব করিতেছেন। ইহার মধ্যে আমাদের মন্ত্রীরা কি করিতে পারিয়াছেন দেখুন—(Maulvi ABDUL WAHED : খুব দেখিয়াছি, লোক সব না খেয়ে পথে ঘাটে মরে রয়েছে।) আপনারা খালি চেঁচাইতেই পারেন, কাজের বেলায় কিছু নয়। আমাদের মন্ত্রীরা করিয়াছেন কি দেখুন—1943-44 সনে মোট উৎপন্ন হয়েছে ১ কোটি ১০ লক্ষ টন চাউল আউস হয়েছে ৩১ লক্ষ টন, আমন হয়েছে ৭৫ লক্ষ টন, আর বোরো হয়েছে ৪ লক্ষ টন। সব মিলিয়া আমাদের এই বাংলা দেশে 1943-44এ উৎপন্ন হয়েছে এক কোটি ১০ লক্ষ টন চাউল। এই যে এই বৎসর গত বৎসর হইতে বিরুদ্ধ দলের মন্ত্রিত্ব করার বৎসর হইতে ২২ লক্ষ টন বেশী চাউল পাওয়া গেছে এটা opposition দ্বারা হয় নাই। এই ২২ লক্ষ টন বেশী চাউল উৎপাদনের বেলায় তারা কিছুই করিতে পারেন নাই তাঁরা শুধু মন্ত্রিগণকে এবং গভর্ণমেণ্টকে criticise করিতেই পারেন—তারা শুধু oppositionএর sake এই opposition করেন—দেশের প্রকৃত উপকার ও মঙ্গল এবং সেবা মন্ত্রিগণ এবং মন্ত্রি সমর্থক মেম্বরগণই করিয়া থাকেন। (Red light,) Sir, আর একটু সময় দিন। 1942-43 সনে ৬৮ লক্ষ ১৭ হাজার টাকা কৃষি বিভাগের বরাদ্দ ছিল কিন্তু তাহা হইতে জুট ডিপার্টমেণ্টের কর্ম্মচারীদের খরচ বাবদ ৩৩ লক্ষ টাকা বাদ দিলে মাত্র ৩৫ লক্ষ ১৭ হাজার টাকা প্রকৃতপক্ষে কৃষির জন্য খরচ হইয়াছিল। এখন দেখা যাক আমরা বর্ত্তমান সনে কৃষির জন্য কি খরচ করিয়াছি। 1943-44 সনে আমাদের কৃষি বিভাগের জন্য বাজেট বরাদ্দ ছিল ১ কোটি ৩৩ লক্ষ ৯৯ হাজার টাকা আর actually খরচ হইয়াছে ১ কোটি ৯৩ লক্ষ ৩৩ হাজার টাকা। আমরা কৃষির জন্য গত বৎসর হইতে ৫৯ লক্ষ ৩৬ হাজার টাকা এ বৎসর বেশী খরচ করিয়াছি। এই এত বেশী টাকা আমরা কৃষির জন্য এই বৎসর খরচ করিয়াছি বলিয়া বাংলা দেশ আজ এতটা বেশী চাউল অর্থাৎ ২২ লক্ষ টন চাউল বেশী উৎপন্ন করিতে পারিয়াছে। ইহা বিরুদ্ধ দলের গালাগালির দ্বারা সম্ভব হয় নাই। ইহা আমাদের দৃঢ় সঙ্কল্প, একাগ্রতা ও কর্ম্মশক্তির জন্যই সম্ভব হইয়াছে। আগামী ১৯৪৪-৪৫ সনের জন্য ১ কোটি ৩০ লক্ষ ৬২ হাজার টাকা Agriculture এর বাজেটে ধরা হইয়াছে। তার মধ্যে আমরা ৪২ লক্ষ ৭১ হাজার টাকার seeds (বীজ) এই বৎসরেই কিনিয়া store করিয়া রাখিয়াছি। তারপর মড়কে কৃষকদের এ বৎসর গো-মহিষ যেগুলি মারা গিয়াছে, চাষীদের সেগুলি আবার কিনিয়া দিতে চাই। সে বাবদে আমরা ৫০ লক্ষ টাকা মঞ্জুর করিয়াছি। কাজেই আমরা আগামী বৎসরের কৃষির জন্য ২ কোটি ২৩ লক্ষ ২৩ হাজার টাকা খরচ করিব। কৃষকের মঙ্গলের জন্য—দেশের মঙ্গলের জন্য আগামী বৎসরে আমরা এই প্রায় সওয়া দুই কোটি টাকা খরচ করিতে উদ্যত হইয়াছি। ইহা আপনাদের বিরুদ্ধ দলের মন্ত্রিত্বের সময় স্বপ্নেরও অগোচর ছিল। কাজেই আর বেশী চিল্লাচিল্লি করিয়া লোক হাসাইবেন না। (Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY and others : ওসব টাকা কার পেটে যাবে কে জানে?) আপনারা থামুন, আমার আর সময় নষ্ট করিবেন না। আমরা এইরূপে কৃষির উন্নতির জন্য বহু স্কীম করিয়াছি, তাহা দ্বারা দুর্ভিক্ষকে বাংলা দেশ হইতে চিরতরে নিবারণ করিতে চাহিতেছি। এই সঙ্গে আমি আপনাদের আরো জানাইতেছি যে, Agricultureএর উন্নতির জন্য Irrigation scheme করিয়া ছোট ছোট জলাশয় সব খনন করার বন্দোবস্ত আমরা করিব এবং তাহাতে মৎস্যের চাষ করিয়া বাংলা দেশের শ্রীবৃদ্ধি সাধন করিব। এই কার্য্যের জন্য পাঞ্জাব বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ভূতপূর্ব্ব ভাইস-চ্যান্সেলার এবং লায়লপুর কৃষি কলেজের ভূতপূর্ব্ব প্রিন্সিপ্যাল

কৃষি বিষয়ে বিশেষ অভিজ্ঞ অফিসার খান বাহাদুর মিয়া আবদুল হোসেন সাহেবকে আমরা নিযুক্ত করিয়াছি। তাঁহার দ্বারা আমরা বাংলার কৃষির প্রভূত উন্নতি সাধন করিতে ইচ্ছা করিয়াছি। তিনি আসিয়া কার্য্যে যোগদান করিয়াছেন এবং কৃষির উন্নতির জন্য নানাবিধ scheme (পরিকল্পনা) তৈয়ার করিতেছেন। আমাদের আর একটি বৎসর কাজ করিতে দিন, তৎপর সমালোচনা করিবেন।

(At this stage the red light having been shown the honourable member resumed his seat.)

Mr. I. A. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the past two years I have in the debates on the agricultural demand in this House spoken about the urgent necessity for a wider distribution by the department of improved varieties of sugarcane amongst cultivators and I would again stress the urgent importance of energetic action in this respect.

The situation today is even worse than it was when I addressed the House last year. The cultivator still finds it very difficult to obtain cuttings of improved varieties and, knowing full well that the old CO. 213 variety is absolutely played out and gives not only a poor yield of cane per acre but also a very poor recovery (or yield of sugar per maund of cane), he is gradually discontinuing the cultivation of sugarcane and in a short time it will have died out almost completely unless something is done.

So far as my own firm's sugar factory is concerned, it would certainly by this time have closed down but for the fact that in our own plantations we have now completely eradicated CO. 213 in favour of CO. 313, CO. 421 and other improved varieties, which are giving us recoveries of 9½ to 10 per cent. as against the 7 or 8 per cent. which is all that can be got from CO. 213.

Adequate supplies of cane and cane of good quality are just as necessary for the manufacture of *gur* as for that of white sugar and the House is well aware of the importance of the *gur* industry for the well-being of the province.

Sir, in these times of restricted transport—times which are likely to continue for a period the duration of which it is impossible to forecast—it is surely very desirable that the province should be self-supporting in the matter of *gur* and sugar to a much greater extent than it is at present and the only way to achieve this end is to eradicate CO. 213 altogether and introduce improved varieties in every district.

The first requisite, it seems to me, is the appointment of a whole-time sugarcane officer. In answer to a question which I put last year to the then Minister of Agriculture I was informed that the Agricultural Chemist was in charge of sugarcane operation. This, I believe, is still the position. The present Hon'ble Minister will correct me (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He is the omniscient of the department!) if I am wrong. The chemist, whom I in no way desire to criticise, must, however, have plenty of other work to do and I regard the appointment of a whole-time sugarcane officer as absolutely essential.

The second requisite is a larger expenditure on experimental farms so that the production of improved varieties of cane can be greatly increased and the change over from CO. 213 effected within a short period of time. The budget provision for farms amounts to only Rs. 4,04,600. This is

absurdly inadequate when one considers the large number of other crops besides sugarcane which have to be grown. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What about control?)

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের কৃষি বিভাগের ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী মাননীয় খান বাহাদুর সৈয়দ মোয়াজ্জামুদ্দিন হোসেন সাহেব বাংলার কৃষি বিভাগের খরচের জন্য ১,২৯,৫১,০০০ টাকার ব্যয়ের বরাদ্দ মঞ্জুরের জন্য এই পরিষদে উপস্থিত করেছেন।

Sir, এই সম্পর্কে আমি বলিতে চাই যে বাংলা দেশটা কৃষি প্রধান দেশ, এখানকার শতকরা ৮০ জন লোক কৃষি কার্য্যের দ্বারা জীবিকা নির্ব্বাহ করে। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের কৃষি বিভাগটা বাঙালী কৃষকদের নিকট এখনো অপরিচিত। বাংলা সরকার প্রতি বৎসর লাখ লাখ টাকা কৃষি বিভাগের উন্নতির নামে খরচ কোরে থাকেন বটে, কিন্তু কৃষক যারা তাদের উপদেশ দেবার জন্য, তাদের ভালো করার জন্য, তাদের উন্নতিলাভে সাহায্য করার জন্য, কৃষি বিভাগ কি করেছেন? দেশের কৃষককুলের উপকারার্থে সরকার প্রতি বৎসর যে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা কৃষক ও কৃষি বিভাগের উন্নতির জন্য খরচ করিতেছেন—এই সংবাদটাও কৃষকদের নিকট উপস্থিত করিতে Bengal Government সক্ষম হন নাই। সেই জন্যই এই কৃষি বিভাগটা কৃষকদের নিকট সম্পূর্ণরূপে অপরিচিত।

এই যে টাকা গভর্ণমেণ্ট বাজেটে বরাদ্দ করেন তার কতকাংশ কৃষি বিভাগের কর্ম্মচারী-দের মাহিনা ও ভাতায় খরচ করেন, কতকাংশ নানাজাতীয় seeds আমদানী ও রপ্তানীর নামে কর্ম্মচারীদের আশ্রিত দালাল, ফড়িয়া, contractor, supplierগণ পাইয়া থাকে, কতকাংশ যন্ত্রাদি আমদানীর নামে খরচ করেন, দেশের কৃষককুল কোন উপকার পায় না, সরকারি কৃষি বিভাগের উপর কৃষককুলের কোন আস্থা নাই, কৃষি বিভাগের কর্ম্মচারীদের অন্যায় কার্য্যের বিরুদ্ধে উর্দ্ধতন কর্ত্তৃপক্ষের এমন কি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের নিকট অভিযোগ করিলেও কোন প্রতিকার নাই। Sir, এই বিষয়ে আমি একটি ঘটনা উল্লেখ করিতেছি যে ১৯৪৩ সনে জুন মাসে নোয়াখালি জেলাতে paddy seeds distribution করা হয়, এই distribution এক দিকে একেবারেই অসময়ে করা হয় কেন না জুন মাসের পূর্ব্বেই আলা ধান বপন করা হয়, তাহাতে এই distributionএতে কত যে corruption হয়েছে তাহা বলে শেষ করা যায় না। একদিন আমি নোয়াখালী হইতে সোনাইমুড়ি ষ্টেশনে উপস্থিত হই, ঐদিন সোনাইমুড়ি সেণ্টারে paddy seeds distribution তারিখ ছিল; কয়েকজন কৃষক আমার নিকট অভিযোগ করিল যে খারাপ ধান ও পরিমাণে কম দিতেছে। আমি তাহাদের অনুরোধে সেণ্টারে উপস্থিত হইয়া দেখিতে পাইলাম যে, কৃষি বিভাগ paddy seeds বলিয়া যে বীজধান দিতেছে উক্ত ধান অতি পুরাণ ভোজ ও ভেজাল, বীজের অনুপযুক্ত। সকলের উপস্থিতে ৭ জনের ধান মাপিয়া দেখিলাম যে, প্রতি ৫ সেরে ৴৷৷০ সের কম হইতেছে। আমি Demonstrator হইতে ৴২ সের পরিমাণ ধান ও উক্ত ৭ জন লোকের address লইয়া কলিকাতায় উপস্থিত হই এবং উক্ত ধান ও ৭ জন লোকের address এবং আমার লিখিত ৯ দফা অভিযোগের একখানা চিঠি লইয়া Secretariatএতে যাইয়া মাননীয় বিভাগীয় মন্ত্রীকে না পাইয়া Govt. Chief Whip Mr. Fazlur Rahamanকে দিই এবং মৌখিক সমস্ত বিষয় জানাই। তৎপরে মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের সহিত দেখা হইলে তাঁহাকেও সব বিষয় বলেছি। Sir, অত্যন্ত পরিতাপের বিষয় যে, অদ্য ১৯৪৪ ইং সনের ২৭শে মার্চ্চ অদ্য পর্য্যন্তও উক্ত ধানের ও আমার চিঠির কোন তদন্ত হয় নাই। আরও দুঃখের বিষয় যে, অদ্য পর্য্যন্ত মাননীয় মন্ত্রী অথবা Whip Mr. Rahaman হইতে ভালমন্দ কোন উত্তর পাই নাই। Sir, এই অবস্থায়

আমরা কি ইহাদিগকে দায়িত্বজ্ঞানহীন মন্ত্রী ও পার্লামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারী বলিতে পারি না Sir, এই অবস্থায় কি আমরা বলিতে পারি না যে, ইঁহারাও corruptionএর সহিত জড়িত? তাহা না হইলে কেন জনসাধারণের অভিযোগকে ধামা চাপা দেওয়া হয়? Sir, কৃষি বিভাগ দ্বারা কৃষকদের কোনই উপকার হইতেছে না বলিলে অন্যায় হইবে না। এই দুর্ভিক্ষে ও মহামারীতে শুধু মানুষ ধ্বংস হয় নাই, কৃষকদের সম্বল হালের গরুও গরুর মড়কে ধ্বংস হয়েছে। গরুর অভাবে চাষ আবাদ বন্ধ রয়েছে। গরু পাওয়া যাইতেছে না, যদিও বা পাওয়া যায় ৫০০ হইতে ১,০০০ টাকা পর্য্যন্ত জোড়া বিক্রী হয়। এই মূল্যে দরিদ্র কৃষকের পক্ষে হালের গরু খরিদ করা সম্ভব নহে। গভর্ণমেণ্ট এই বিষয়ে কেন উদাসীন? অন্য জায়গা হইতে গরু আমদানী করিতে হইবে, কৃষকদিগকে টাকা দিয়া সাহায্য করিতে হইবে, অন্যথায় আবার ভীষণ অন্নকষ্ট বাংলায় দেখা দিবে।

Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমার বন্ধু ভোলার কবি মোজাম্মেল হক মন্ত্রীদের খুব সাফাই দিয়াছেন। আমি একটি বিষয় এখানে উল্লেখ না করিয়া পারিতেছি না যে, দেশের উৎপীড়ক স্বেচ্ছাচারী ধনী ব্যক্তি এবং চোর, ডাকাত প্রভৃতি লোকেরা সব সময়ে তাহাদের উপার্জ্জিত টাকা-পয়সা হইতে কিছু কিছু খরচ করিয়া কতকগুলি লোক বাধ্য রাখিয়া সাফাই সাক্ষীরূপে ব্যবহার করিয়া থাকেন। এতদিন আমরা জানিতাম যে, মিঃ আবদুর রহমান সিদ্দিকী বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর সাফাই সাক্ষী। অদ্য দেখিতে পাইতেছি যে কবি মোজাম্মেল হকও মন্ত্রীদের সাফাই সাক্ষীর দপ্তরে নাম লিখাইয়াছেন। কবি সাহেবের লাভের পরিমাণ জানিতে পারি কি?

(At this stage the red light having been lit the member resumed his seat.)

Maulvi IDRIS AHMED MIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, কথা এই কেবল "অধিক শস্য ফলাও" মুখে বল্লে হবে না। "অধিক শস্য ফলাও" আন্দোলনের জন্য যে টাকা বরাদ্দ হয়েছে সেটা যদি ভাল করে খরচ করা না হয় তাহলে বাংলা দেশ উপকৃত হবে না। কিন্তু সে টাকাটা যে ভাল ভাবে খরচ হবে সে সম্বন্ধে আমার যথেষ্ট সন্দেহ আছে। তার কারণ যাঁরা এই টাকাটা খরচ করবেন তাঁরা একেবারে বেপরওয়া হয়ে খরচ করবেন। তাঁদের ভাল কোরে দেখবারও সুযোগ নাই, ভাববারও সুযোগ নাই। আমি সংশ্লিষ্ট মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করি তিনি M. L. A , M. L. C.দিগকে ও অন্যান্য সঙ্গে লয়ে একটা পরামর্শ সমিতি গঠন করে এই টাকাটা খরচ করবার ব্যবস্থা করুন। কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের গত কনভোকেশনে অনেকেই বর্ত্তমান কর্ম্ম ও শিক্ষা পদ্ধতিকে ভেঙ্গে চুরে নূতন শিক্ষা ব্যবস্থার কথা বলেছিলেন। যে ভাবের কথা সেদিন Convocationএ বলা হোয়েছিল তা কেবল মুখে বল্লেই হবে না। আমাদের মাননীয় কৃষিমন্ত্রী মহাশয় নিজে বিবেচনা কোরে শিক্ষা বিভাগের মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ স্থাপন কোরে পুঁথিগত সাধারণ শিক্ষার সঙ্গে কৃষি ও শিল্প শিক্ষার কার্য্যকরী ব্যবস্থা প্রবর্ত্তনের চেষ্টা করুন। স্কুল কলেজে যে সব জমি পড়ে আছে, সেগুলি শিক্ষক এবং ছাত্ররা মিলে ছোট ছোট কৃষিক্ষেত্রে পরিণত কোরে নিজে নিজে চাষ আবাদ কোরে যাতে লাভবান হোতে পারেন ও দেশে আদর্শ স্থাপন করতে পারেন তার ব্যবস্থা করুন। এরূপ কাজে যেসব স্কুল কলেজ অগ্রসর হবে গভর্ণমেণ্টের কৃষি ও শিক্ষা বিভাগ হোতে তাদেরকে যথেষ্ট উৎসাহ দিতে হবে। এই সুবর্ণ সুযোগ অবহেলায় হারাইলে বাংলায় আবার দুর্ভিক্ষ হবে। আমার ভাই মোজাম্মেল হক সাহেব কৃষি বিভাগের বাহাদুরির অনেক কথা বলেছেন কিন্তু তা সত্ত্বেও বাংলা দেশের দুইটি প্রধান খাদ্যশস্য ধান এবং গমের ফলন পৃথিবীর সব দেশ চেয়ে বাংলায় কম। গভর্ণমেণ্ট রিপোর্ট হোতেই তার হিসাব শুনুন। ইটালীতে একর প্রতি ধান জন্মায় ৫৭।০ মণ, জাপানে ৩৪।।০ মণ, মিশরে ২৯।।০ মণ, ভারতে ১৭ মণ, আর ধনধান্যে পুষ্পে ভরা বাংলায় মাত্র ১০ মণ। ইটালীতে একর প্রতি গম জন্মায় ২৩ মণ, মিশরে ২২ মণ, জাপানে ১৯ মণ, সারা ভারতে ৮ মণ আর বাংলায় মাত্র ৬ মণ।

বাংলার অনেক জমি জমা মাঠ ঘাট আজ কচুরিপানায় ঘিরে ফেলেছে। যে কচুরিপানা অভিশাপরূপে এসেছিল, সেই কচুরিপানাকে যদি আমরা ধ্বংস করে গর্ত্তে জমা কোরে পচিয়ে

সার করে জমি উদ্ধার কোরতে পারি এবং তাকে সারে পরিণত কোরতে পারি তাহলে বাংলার জমির উৎপাদিকা শক্তি বৃদ্ধি পাবে এবং বাঙ্গালীও বাঁচতে পারবে। তা না হোলে ফসল বৃদ্ধির বিশেষ সম্ভাবনা নাই, কেননা যে কৃষকেরা পেটে অর্দ্ধেক খাদ্যও পায় না, যাদের হাতে টাকা নাই, যাদের গোয়ালে গরু নাই বল্লেই চলে তারা কি করে ৩০০।৪০০ টাকা মূল্যে প্রতি জোড়া হালের বলদ কিনে ভাল করে জমি চাষ করবে? এবারকার কৃষিখাতে যে টাকা বরাদ্দ হোয়েছে তার প্রতি পাই যদি ভাল ভাবে খরচ করা না হয় তাহলে হয়তো আবার দুর্ভিক্ষ দেখা দিবে। কেননা বাংলার চাষী আজ হালের গরু ও খাদ্য অভাবে আধমরা হয়ে আছে।

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should first like to give replies to some of the points that have been raised in the course of the debate. Regarding long-term planning for agriculture Maharaja Sris Chandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar, has raised the point and he has said "there is nothing in the budget to show that there has been any attempt at long-term planning for agriculture". Sir, I must say at the very outset that long-term planning is not possible unless, first of all, there is a machinery for collection of statistics which is not at all in existence in Bengal and has never been in existence before. The reason of it to a great extent is the land system in Bengal. On account of the existing land system, I mean permanent settlement, nobody takes any care to see as to what is the condition of agriculture or what crops we get from year to year and season to season. Sir, I had promised that "within three months we were going to see that a machinery is set up for the collection of agricultural statistics". I want to say that true to my promise to the European Party I drew up a scheme and placed it before the Finance Department, but unfortunately they considered this scheme to be too ambitious and returned it to us for revising it, so that they could see their way to approve of the scheme. Sir, I have revised the scheme and it will be going to the Finance Department again within a few days. I hope now we will be able to set up a machinery within a short time.

Sir, in this connection I want to say something about random sampling to which reference has been made by Mr. Hirtzel and also Dr. Sanyal. I fully agree with Dr. Sanyal that random sampling will not be suitable for the collection of proper statistics of different seasons and different areas. We are going to collect statistics of every village, every union and every thana. Random sampling will be a good thing where the statistics are required of the province as a whole. The larger the area the result will be more correct, and the smaller the area, random sampling will be liable to more inaccuracies, and it will not at all be of any use if the unit is a union or a village. We want to know in which village which crop has been grown to what extent and in which season. Sir, we have decided that we must have a complete set of crop statistics every year and for that we are going to utilise our rural development staff. Over P.L.A's. we will only appoint a few supervisors in order to check their work. I think by that means we shall be able to get the correct statistics corrected up to date, and when we will be in possession of such statistics, we will be able to draw up long-term planning for agriculture.

Sir, so long Bengal has been favoured by nature. We have been depending on the bounties of nature and we have never therefore cared to

go in for any scientific improvement in agriculture. But now the population has increased. We have now come to a point when we must see that the yield is increased in respect of paddy and other crops by adopting scientific methods. We can no longer merely depend on the bounties of nature.

As regards the increase in population Mr. Hirtzel has stated that we must increase the yield per acre. Not only that but we have to look to many other things. We have to plan out as to what crop and to what extent we should grow. We should be going in probably for increase in the area under potato which gives 15 times more yield than paddy. One acre under potato will give 150 maunds of potato whereas the same land will yield only 10 maunds of rice. If we want to meet the needs of growing population of Bengal we will have to go in for increase in the area under potato. We will have to think of other crops also.

Then I come to Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury's cut motion as regards the reclamation of forest lands. I find that 31,000 acres of land have been allowed to be reclaimed from the reserved forests and the protected area since 1935. If he wants more land to be brought under cultivation I think he should approach the proper authorities. If he fails there then he should approach the Forest Minister direct.

As regards wider distribution of improved seeds of sugarcane I think, Sir, that the department has already decided that Co. 213 should no longer be allowed to be grown. We have gone in for Co. 421 and 527. Last year about 125,000 maunds of cuttings of this new type were to be distributed but for want of transport facilities we could not do so. This year also there has been a breakdown in the railway transport facilities, and we do not think we will be able to get through this year's programme, viz., distribution of 128,000 maunds of seeds. Practically, the department has decided that we must have a separate sugarcane farm in Central Bengal somewhere in the Rajshahi Division and that we should have requisite special staff for it. A scheme has been drawn up and it will be placed before the Sugar Board which will deal with the matter and finally decide. I think in the near future we will have real sugarcane staff engaged in the work of increasing the production of sugarcane.

I now come to the question of mischief done to the jute-growers by the fixation of minimum and maximum prices, and fixation of acreage of 8 annas. Last year also the acreage was 8 annas, and we have not increased the last year's quota. Jute is the monopoly crop of Bengal. It is feared that if it is not supplied in reasonable quantities various substitutes are bound to come into the market and jute may meet with the same fate as that of Indigo. That would be highly detrimental to the economic life of the province, and will be nothing short of a calamity.

Jute is needed for military purposes. The fate of India and particularly of Bengal is closely linked up with that of the Allies, and Bengal must in her own interest produce a reasonable quantity of jute to support the war effort.

Bengal has been and is still being very generously assisted with food supplies from other provinces and abroad. If we want others to help us we owe it as a duty to ourselves to help those others with what they cannot produce by themselves.

Jute is grown in just 2 annas area of paddy. That means that while one or two annas will make all the difference of supply of jute its effect on paddy supply will not at all be serious. We have more than 37 lakhs of acres of cultivable waste lands in Bengal, a portion of which may make up for the loss. We shall be able to make up the loss which we would incur in respect of paddy on account of one or two annas more cultivation of jute. But still we strove hard and fought tooth and nail for securing a better and more reasonable price for our jute-growers, but we had ultimately to come to an amicable settlement in the interest of our cultivators themselves. The House may not be aware that under Defence of India Rules, as jute is a war material the Government of India can force cultivation of jute up to any extent and can also fix the maximum price whatever they like. If we had not come to any amicable settlement the result would have been that maximum price would have been fixed, and acreage also would have been fixed without any fixation of any minimum or guarantee of purchase of all the unsold jute. By securing the minimum price and the guarantee for purchase of all the unsold jute at the minimum price we have achieved something which should be appreciated by the reasonable section of the people. The jute-growers will no longer be at the mercy of the speculators. They know definitely where they stand. Knowing that if they have to make some sacrifice for the larger interests of the country they should not grudge.

As regards free distribution of manure and seeds, etc., we have distributed manure and seeds of all kinds at concessional rates with the result that Government are going to incur a loss of nearly Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 lakhs. Absolutely free distribution was not made because if that is attempted it will demoralise the people. We will distribute seeds at concessional rates in order to help the poor agriculturists who are hard pressed and in difficulties.

Regarding "Grow More Food Propaganda", a good deal has been said in respect of this—that nothing has been achieved. I know, Sir, and everybody else, who is a member of this House, knows that our Agriculture Department is absolutely starved. Our staff is hopelessly inadequate. We find it impossible to meet the abnormal situation with this staff. Yet we did our best. Last year we had to appoint temporary staff for distribution of *aman* paddy seeds and other seeds. At the last moment we had to take sanction. The last Ministry did not care to take sanction for this. After our taking over charge in April, 1943, we took sanction and had to purchase and distribute everything in a month. How could you expect better results out of that? Here and there there might have been some mistakes made. The purchase and distribution was done in great hurry and at a short notice. The temporary staff were not used to do work of such dimensions. (A voice: What about this year?) We had already taken sanction in the month of December for seeds which we would have to distribute in the month of April. Seed store houses have been set up in every subdivision for storage of seeds. Seeds are being distributed and will be distributed. It has been said that the "Grow More Food" campaign has failed. Nobody is more alive than I am to the shortcomings and defects of this department. But I must say that in spite of those shortcomings we have

got a record acreage under *aman* and *aus*, and we have got a bumper crop. We have got a record acreage under vegetables and under sweet potato. But for that a large number of people would have died. (A voice: Question.) That is the sense of the whole country. Even from the Opposition benches we have heard that this year we have got a bumper crop. These are facts which cannot be denied.

As regards the Development Commissioner and his staff I have to say one word. I have already said that the Agriculture Department is starved for want of officers. I wanted that the "Grow More Food" campaign should not be merely a paper scheme, but that it must materialise. That is why I was anxious that there should be a staff whose duty it would be to see that instructions issued by the Agriculture Department are actually translated into action.

Sir, I have taken only District Development Officers under whom I have placed the entire jute staff. It will be their business to collect statistics; they will prepare schemes regarding every particular union and thana and these will have to be examined by us and then it will be possible for us to state definitely what area we have to reclaim and what area will have to be brought under new crop and all these things we will be able to do, we hope, when the new staff which have been appointed only six weeks ago, will submit their report. You cannot expect anything from this staff within six weeks. I do not pretend to be a magician so that with a magician's wand I could transform the whole country in one night. But I can assure the House that no one is more anxious than I am to see that agriculture of the whole province is developed properly.

From what I have stated in reply to the specific cut motions it will appear under what trying circumstances the present Ministry had to work and how promptly they took upon themselves the task of purchase and distribution of seeds and manures of all kinds. The task was a huge one. There was a province-wide demand for seeds on loan. The staff was inadequate and unused to handle works of such magnitude. Just think seeds worth nearly a crore had to be given out as loan at concession rates. The Government loss on account of concession given will amount to 30 to 40 lakhs of rupees. But, generally speaking, in spite of the gigantic nature of the work and apparent disadvantages, the staff did their best with the result that the country got a record acreage and bumper crop not only from *aus* and *aman* but also in respect of vegetables and sweet potato, which went a long way in easing the food situation.

The "Grow More Food" campaign was more or less a paper campaign. The present Ministry realised that an adequate staff was necessary for making the campaign a success and therefore organised the Development Department. The department has just started work with the help of Jute Regulation staff and it is hoped by the next cold weather we will be in possession of all necessary information regarding each and every union for drawing up a programme of systematic and methodical work for reclaiming waste lands, increasing yield, introducing new crops, and protecting crops from ravages of water-hyacinth, etc. We also expect to have a seed store in every jute circle where we propose to store best seeds of every crop. We have also got ready a scheme for seasonal collection of agricultural crop statistics after field to field inspection and it will be

before the Cabinet within a few weeks. Without such statistics it is impossible to devise planned agriculture.

If Bengal is to meet the demand of food of its ever increasing population it must go in for extensive cultivation of potatoes and sweet potatoes which gives fifteen times more yield than that of rice. We must have a larger area for such crops in every union and if we start work with such planning we hope to overcome the demon of starvation once for all and for ever.

We have been doing everything possible to conserve our cattle population and also to replenish it by importing from adjoining provinces. We are allowing loans liberally to our poorer agriculturists for purchase of cattle. We are going to reorganise the whole Agriculture Department with a view to staff it with adequate and efficient staff, and with that object in view we have brought a Professor of Agriculture of great eminence from the Punjab. We will, if necessary, go to other and distant countries for bringing men who may render us real assistance in developing our agariculture. In short we are determined, *Inshallahtala,* to leave nothing undone which is humanly possible for developing the agriculture of our country and making Bengal a self-supporting and prosperous country as it once used to be.

The motion of Maulvi Abdul Wahed that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Atul Chandra Sen that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Atul Chandra Sen that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Jogesh Chandra Gupta that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Patiram Roy that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Ashutosh Lahiri that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Abdul Wahed that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Maharaja Sris Chandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar, that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmad Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Harendra Kumar Sur that the demand of Rs. 1,29,51,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain that a sum of Rs. 1,29,51,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture", was then put and agreed to.

41—Veterinary.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 8,30,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary".

Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,30,000 for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to provide remedy for cattle diseases.

Sir, this is a question which is very vital not only for the agriculturists but also for the Government in their attempt to grow more food but looking at the budget figure we are disappointed to find that the same figure is continuing. In the Red Book it has been shown that the small increase is due mainly to higher cost of fodder and cattle. I want to know from the Government what steps do they contemplate to take in order to combat this fell disease prevalent amongst cattle in Bengal.

Dr. GOBINDA CHANDRA BHAWMIK: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,30,000 for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about failure of Government to save the cattle from the epidemic.

আজ বাংলা দেশের মফঃস্বল অঞ্চলে হাজার হাজার গো-মহিষাদি প্রাণ হারাইয়াছে। Epidemicএর সময়ও তাদের চিকিৎসার কোন ব্যবস্থা হয় না। গো-মহিষাদির অভাবে চাষ বন্ধ হবার উপক্রম হয়েছে। যে কয়জন ডাক্তার আছেন তাঁরা যে কোথায় থাকেন লোকে জানে না। এ অবস্থায় "Grow more food campaign" sucessful কোরতে হোলে গো-জাতির উন্নতি কোরতে হবে, প্রত্যেক থানায় পশু হাসপাতাল স্থাপিত কোরতে হবে, ডাক্তার রাখতে হবে। কৃষকেরা যাতে গরু রক্ষা করতে পায় তার ব্যবস্থা কোরতে হবে। আজ এই Assemblyর অধিকাংশই কৃষক মেম্বর অথচ কৃষকদের সুখ-সুবিধার প্রতি Veterinary Departmentএর লক্ষ্য নাই। এই Department একেবারে failure হয়েছে। অতএব আমি অনুরোধ করি যাতে জনসাধারণ পশুচিকিৎসায় সুবিধা পায় তার চেষ্টা কোরতে হবে।

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,30,000 for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the maladministration in the Bengal Veterinary College, Belgachia, and the arbitrary dismissal and suspension of officers of the permanent cadre.

Sir, owing to shortness of time I will confine myself to the last part of my motion and I shall draw the attention of the House to the glaring

injustice done whimsically and arbitrarily to an officer of the Veterinary College. During the general discussion of the budget I referred to this case and today I place the facts before the House. This officer, Mr. N. G. Mukherjee by name, a lecturer of the Veterinary College, has been arbitrarily and whimsically dismissed without drawing up any proceeding whatsoever against him, without framing any charge against him, without giving an opportunity to this gentleman to explain his conduct or explain himself. Sir, he was an assistant lecturer in the Subordinate Veterinary Service under the control of the Veterinary Adviser to the Government of Bengal. The Veterinary Adviser to the Government of Bengal was the appointing authority. He would certainly, if he were in that capacity, deal with this matter, but, Sir, this officer who was removed from service arbitrarily was a lecturer of the Veterinary College and this Veterinary Adviser to the Government of Bengal had no hand in it because Government was the appointing authority and it was Government alone who could dismiss this officer. By Notification No. 1 Veterinary, dated the 5th January, 1943, this officer was appointed as lecturer of the college. Since then there was no other notification published by Government reverting this officer to the rank of assistant lecturer and I do not know how there was the authority on the part of the Veterinary Adviser to dismiss him.

This officer applied for leave for three months from the 1st of September and he was allowed to go on leave in anticipation of the Government order. Government asked him to appear before the Medical Board to get a certificate. He did appear before the Medical Board and he submitted day-to-day reports to the Veterinary College and got acknowledgment receipts. But what was the order of dismissal? That he flouted the Government order and that he did not appear before the Medical Board. It was not a fact and this order of dismissal was illegal, *ultra vires* and the Minister himself without going into the allegations, without taking any evidence also noted on a letter written by Mr. Fazlur Rahman, M.L.A., of the Government Party to him on the 22nd June that he also has got complaints against this officer. Sir, the judgment was passed before taking evidence against this officer. Sir, the Hon'ble Minister served under the Government of Bengal and he was a trying Magistrate. He knew the rule of law that pronouncement of judgment should be after taking evidence, after hearing the accused. That was not done because, as I said the other day, this officer was not in the good book of the Assistant Secretary of the department who is a brother-in-law of the son of the Minister and there was a vile conspiracy between this Assistant Secretary, the Principal of the College and the Veterinary Adviser to the Government. For this vile conspiracy this officer had to go and the Minister by his conduct gets himself implicated in the conspiracy.

Sir, the case of this officer was recommended for confirmation in the post and the file was referred to the Public Service Commission, and the Public Service Commission when submitting the report recorded that he was not only fit for this lower veterinary grade but he was fit for higher veterinary grade. Sir, he was an officer of the gazetted rank and it was Government alone who could dismiss him, but that was not done. An officer was appointed in his place by Government without scrutinising the

fact whether the dismissal was right or wrong and the defect has been detected in the Finance Department. The newly appointed gentleman has not been paid for four months. I would therefore request the Hon'ble Minister to scrutinise the file from top to bottom and remove this illegal order and reinstate him.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 8,30,000 for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary" be reduced by Rs. 100 in order to raise a discussion about the maladministration of the department and the inability of the department to improve the livestock position in the province.

With regard to the maladministration part of it my previous speaker has already laid very clearly the charges which I also had in view. The officers of the department are living constantly in fear of some interference by an enthusiastic M.L.A. and it appears that without enquiry into the allegation steps are being taken by the departmental superiors and it is very difficult to understand why all this is done. It is not merely with regard to one officer as has been pointed out by Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar but I find there are series of officers who have been similarly treated. This requires very careful investigation. While this has been the case with regard to some of the very able and expert officers of the department, it appears that so far as the head of the department is concerned serious charges have been laid against him, but no action appears to have been taken either to investigate into those charges or to bring him to book.

With regard to the other part of my motion, I would invite the Hon'ble Minister's attention to the deterioration in the conditions of livestock in the province particularly with regard to the fighting of cattle diseases for which members of different sections of this House have already invited his attention. The system that was originally in vogue was changed and the entire Veterinary Department was provincialised. It is time, Sir, that this provincialised department be expanded with a larger number of duly qualified persons and if this has to be done the education of our youngmen in veterinary science has to be expanded too. It appears that there is great paucity of qualified men in the province and even from outside it is not possible to get a number of qualified men overnight and therefore I submit, Sir, that the Hon'ble Minister will do well to look into the possibility of increasing the number of duly qualified veterinary surgeons for the province by improving the conditions and teaching of the Veterinary College.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Sir, I have only a few words to speak in reply. A definite charge has been made as regards maladministration in the Veterinary College, Belgachia, and arbitrary dismissal and suspension of officers. As regards dismissal of the officer referred to, Government had nothing to do with it. I think the head of the department has passed the order for dismissal and if the officer is aggrieved he is quite at liberty to file an appeal to the Secretary and the Secretary is competent to deal with the matter. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He has already done it, I understand. The Public Service Commission has said that the appeal is justified.)

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another matter.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: He may have gone to the Public Service Commission. The Government has nothing to do with it. When a reference has been made about Mr. Fazlur Rahman's note, I may say that Mr. Rahman sent the note to me. I made certain enquiries about the officer in question and it was found that he was a discharged officer of the C.S.P.C.A. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: How many years ago?) I do not know that exactly, but many years ago. In the covering note it was stated: "We are surprised to find a man of such nature being taken in as a lecturer of the Veterinary College." That was all. I considered whether he was actually competent to be a lecturer of the college. That was the only thing with which I was concerned. As regards the complaint against the Director of Veterinary the petition of complaint was sent to the Veterinary Adviser for report, but the report was never received, it never saw the light of the day.

As regards the general complaint that Government has done nothing to check cattle disease, I may say that whenever we get reports of cattle epidemics the epidemic staff at the headquarters are mobilised and also district and divisional officers are sent out to check the epidemic, and everything possible is done. I admit that here also the department is understaffed and requires expansion. As mentioned by Dr. Sanyal not only the department but the college also requires improvement to a very great extent. I find that the college is not very popular now-a-days. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: How can it be popular if you send away the popular officers?) We must get the right type of men in the college. In passing I may say that in order to check epidemics we have already got a scheme of mass inoculation for prevention of cattle disease, and this will be before the Cabinet very soon and we have also introduced a Bill in the Council for checking epidemics by taking steps against spread of cattle disease. So, it cannot be said that we are unaware of the situation; we are doing all that is possible to do under the present circumstances.

The motion of Mr. Upendra Nath Barman that the demand of Rs. 8,30,000 for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Gobinda Chandra Bhawmik that the demand of Rs. 8,30,000 for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar that the demand of Rs. 8,30,000 for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 8,30,000 for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain that a sum of Rs. 8,30,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "41—Veterinary", was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Tuesday, the 28th March, 1944, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 28th March, 1944, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI, in the Chair) 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 204 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Petitions for grant of family allowance from certain security prisoners.

*198. **Mr. JNANENDRA CHANDRA MAJUMDAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that security prisoners Babus Makhanlal Misra, Durgesh Chandra Bhattacharjee and Nirmal Kanta Sen of Dacca at present detained in the Buxa Special Reserve Jail, have sent several petitions to the Government for the grant of their family allowance but have received no replies as yet?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the date of their petitions; and

(*ii*) the reasons for not sending any replies as yet?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether—

(*i*) they were all earning members of their families before their arrests;

(*ii*) Babu Nirmal Kanta Sen was the main helping hand to his old father in procuring cases for their Life Insurance agency business and was also earning from private tuition;

(*iii*) Babu Nirmal Kanta Sen has got a large number of family members including his two unmarried sisters to maintain; and

(*iv*) Babu Makhan Lal Misra has no relation or friend who can maintain his helpless old widowed mother?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of granting family allowances to them?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Petitions for grant of family allowance were received from these security prisoners and replies thereto have been given.

(*b*) (*i*) Petitions of Babu Makhanlal Misra are dated 9th November, 1942, 25th January, 1943, and 18th March, 1943; those of Babu Durgesh Chandra Bhattacharjee are dated the 2nd February, 1943, 28th February, 1943, 4th May, 1943, 25th June, 1943, and 2nd August, 1943; and those of Babu Nirmal Kanta Sen are dated the 5th October, 1942, 27th April, 1943, 12th

June, 1943, 22nd August, 1943, 22nd July, 1943, 29th September, 1943, 13th October, 1943, and 15th November, 1943.

(*ii*) Does not arise.

(*c*) (*i*) No, except Babu Durgesh Chandra Bhattacharjee,

(*ii*) No.

(*iii*) He has six members including the two sisters.

(*iv*) My information is that the widow is his foster mother and she gets a family allowance of Rs.30 per month on account of her nephew Security Prisoner Babu Kshitish Chandra Mukherji.

(*d*) and (*e*) Babu Durgesh Chandra Bhattacharjee has been granted a family allowance of Rs.30 per month. Babus Makhan Lal Misra and Nirmal Kanta Sen have not been granted any family allowance as their families have not been deprived of any legitimate source of income by their arrest and detention.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to inform the House how long did it take Government to reply to the petition of Babu Nirmal Kanta Sen?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*c*) (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of making fresh enquiries and revising the answers if I can give him definite information that Babu Nirmal Kanta Sen was earning at the time of his arrest by tuition and life insurance business?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The information of Government is that by the arrest and detention of Babu Nirmal Kanta Sen there was no loss to the family. His family consists of 6 members of whom his father and his two brothers are all earning members.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly tell us if it is not the policy of Government to grant a family allowance if by detention of a prisoner his family has been deprived of the income he was earning?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: If a family has been deprived of any income by the arrest and detention of a security prisoner then it is the Government policy to grant family allowance.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer just now given, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable that a fresh enquiry should be started when one member gives definite information that this particular security prisoner (Babu Nirmal Kanta Sen) was earning and that by his detention his family had been deprived of the earning which Babu Nirmal Kanta Sen was contributing?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The information of Government is that he was not an earning member before his arrest, but as one honourable member of this House says that he is in a position to state that he was an earning member, certainly Government will enquire into it.

Khan Bahadur SHAH ABDUR RAUF: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the principle on which family allowances are given to security prisoners?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I think that the policy of Government with regard to the grant of family allowances to security prisoners has been explained several times in this House.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to let us know whether it is the policy of the Government of Bengal to allow family allowances to such prisoners as though not earning anything at the time of arrest might have earned something in the meantime during the period of their detention?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: In some exceptional cases family allowances are granted by Government on compassionate grounds even if a security prisoner was not earning anything. But, as I said, that is not the general policy.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to the answer just now given that two brothers of Babu Nirmal Kanta Sen are earning, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is their occupation?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Promotion in Calcutta Police.

***199. Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the year 1943-44 there have been cases of promotion from the rank of the Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police to the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police so far as the Calcutta Police is concerned?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many—

(*i*) Muslims; and

(*ii*) Hindus

have been so promoted?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): Yes. Four promotions were made in 1943 and all the promotees were Hindus. No promotion has yet been made during this year.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any cases of seniormost officers have been disregarded so far as these promotions are concerned?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether of these 4 promotions there was any Scheduled Caste officer?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in the matter of promotion the principle of communal ratio is totally ignored?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The policy underlying promotion is that it depends on merit and seniority. Inequalities in the number of officers belonging to different communities are redressed in making direct recruitments.

Mr. ABUL HOSAIN AHMED: In view of the fact that there are candidates possessing minimum qualifications required to fill the communal ratio, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to see that employees without any major punishments are promoted at the time of making promotions to make up the communal ratio?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: In the matter of promotion Communal Ratio Rules are not taken seriously into consideration. If there is any inequality it is redressed at the time of making direct recruitment.

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of Government to recruit 2 more Muslim Sub-Inspectors in view of these 4 promotions?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Communal Ratio Service Rules are strictly observed by this Government in the matter of direct recruitments.

Khan Bahadur FAZLUL QUADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who is the appointing authority in the case of promotion?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The Commissioner of Police.

Khan Bahadur FAZLUL QUADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there were any Muslims whose claims were overlooked?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he will consider the desirability of looking into the matter if the cases of Muslims have been overlooked?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question has already been answered.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: With regard to the last portion of the answer that no promotion has yet been made during this year, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to see that the cases of deserving Muslim candidates for promotion are not overlooked?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: If there are Muslim officers who are qualified for promotion certainly their cases will be fully considered.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that even when there are suitable Muslim candidates fit for promotion, the superior officers prepare their service record in such a way, if there are non-Muslim candidates, as to shut out all promotion from them?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the principle of Communal Ratio Rules will be observed in the case of promotion also in future?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The Communal Ratio Rules do not apply in the case of promotions.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Death of a security prisoner in Berhampore Special Jail.

95. Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether—

(*i*) a security prisoner at the Berhampore Special Jail died recently (within about three months last) without previous illness; and

(*ii*) the said prisoner received injuries in the hands of warders immediately before his death?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the nature of such injuries and the post mortem report about the cause of his death?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the name and description of the said prisoner and the period of his detention;

(*ii*) the circumstances that led to his death;

(*iii*) whether any case has been started against any one in connection with his death; and

(*iv*) whether any official or non-official enquiry has been made?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) (*iv*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the report of such enquiry?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any non-official visitor to the said jail?

(*f*) If the answer to (*e*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state his name?

(*g*) If the answer to (*e*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) A Chief Head Warder and a criminal security prisoner met their deaths in this Jail in circumstances which are now the subject of judicial proceedings.

(*b*), (*c*) (*ii*) and (*d*) No. The matter is *sub-judice*.

(*c*) (*i*) Criminal security prisoner Ananta Pandey; period of detention indefinite.

(*iii*) and (*iv*) Yes.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) Does not arise.

(*g*) The matter escaped attention. The Commissioner of the Division has now been asked to make the necessary appointment.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. I find that one summary answer seems to dispose of the bulk of the questions put by saying that the matter is *sub-judice*. The *post-mortem* report is a matter which cannot be *sub-judice*.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another matter. But what is your point of order?

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, my point is that I wanted to know certain specific matters. But so far as the question of *sub-judice*

is concerned, it arises only if there is anything which relates to the case. If there is any offender who has been brought under trial, then only the matter can be said to be *sub-judice*.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your point? You are not satisfied with the answer, but I am sorry, I cannot help you.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, besides the fact that most of the questions are answered unsatisfactorily, this question has not been answered at all. That is my point.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been put and an answer has been given according to practice. If you are not satisfied with the answer, you can elicit further information by putting supplementary questions.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the nature of the *sub-judice* matter and who were the parties in the case under dispute?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The matter regarding the occurrence that took place in the jail is *sub-judice*.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Has anybody been prosecuted?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: What are the materials before the Hon'ble Minister for observing that the matter is *sub-judice*? And who are the parties in the case?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The matter is *sub-judice* because the Government know that it is so.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of any person who is a complainant and of any person who is an accused in this incident?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Since it appears that both the parties in the affray are dead, who is the person who has been prosecuted?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the report of the doctor regarding the injuries received by the prisoner?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not in a position to state that now, as I have already said the matter is *sub-judice*.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any Executive Officer, as required under the Jail Code, has been deputed for holding an enquiry? If so, who is that officer?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: An enquiry was held.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: By whom?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is in a position to give replies to any supplementary questions relating to the incident that occurred?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, I am. But I am not prepared to disclose any information which is under examination or which is *sub-judice*.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to agree to holding up this question pending further enquiry into the question?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is for the Speaker to decide.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, may I appeal to you to hold over this question?

Mr. SPEAKER: But he has answered the question.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, in view of the seriousness of the case all that I want to have is information which is out-side the case which is *sub-judice*.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Why not then give a separate notice? If the honourable member gives a notice, the Hon'ble Minister in charge will be prepared to answer the question.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long this jail has been in existence?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: When was the attention of the Hon'ble Minister first drawn to the fact that there was no non-official visitor in respect of this jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It was brought to the notice of the Government when the question was received. This was a special jail and was not treated as a central jail, and therefore the matter was overlooked. Under section 56 of the Jail Code it is necessary to appoint non-official visitors, but it was overlooked in this case. But since notice was received, steps have been taken by Government to appoint non-official visitors.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Without prejudice to the hypothetical or speculative cases that may or may not be in existence, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the story that has reached the Government in connection with this incident that has resulted in two deaths?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No story reached Government.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Any version that has come to the Government?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There is only the official report.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: What is the report?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: As I have already said, I do not think that it should be disclosed at this stage.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: What are the reasons for which the report received should not be disclosed?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Because the matter is *sub-judice*.

Judgment of Hon'ble High Court and proposed legislation for amendment of law on the subject.

96. Mr. ASHUTOSH LAHIRY: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department been drawn to a judgment of the Hon'ble High Court delivered on the 20th January, 1944, in the case of Bahadursing Singh *versus* Sanyasi Charan Ghosh wherein it has been held that arrest and detention in jail of a judgment-debtor in addition to attachment and sale of his property is legal?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of bringing in legislation to change the law on the subject?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): Yes.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the answer "Yes" refers to question (*a*) or question (*b*)?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: To both (*a*) and (*b*).

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the provincial Government has got any power to amend the Civil Procedure Code?

Mr. SPEAKER: These come under rules made by the High Court.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when he intends to bring forward a legislation for this purpose?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: As soon as possible.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be more specific as to when he will bring in the new legislation?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Probably in the next session of the Assembly.

Enquiry regarding Hunger-strike in the Rajshahi Central Jail.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, I have received definite information that seventeen security prisoners have resorted to hunger-strike in the Rajshahi Central Jail and that one of them has been transferred to the Medical College for treatment. I now want to know from the Hon'ble the Home Minister what is the reason for the recent hunger-strike and also if the Government has taken any step to induce the prisoners to give up the hunger-strike. The hunger-strike began on the 20th March.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, the Hon'ble the Home Minister is absent today. He went to Rajshahi and he knows the entire position. If the honourable member will press his question when the Hon'ble the Chief Minister will be present I think he will get a reply.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: May I not in the meantime request the Parliamentary Secretary to make enquiries of the Home Department officers some of whom are present here?

Mr. SPEAKER: The whole point is this. This is something which has been brought to the notice of Government just now here in this House and the Parliamentary Secretary has said what he has got to say. What others will say it is not for me to direct.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: We are only requesting the Government through you, Sir, to let us know the actual situation with regard to this serious matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the best course in a matter of this description is that a statement should be made and the Leader of the House may make that statement. However, that has not been done and it is now open to Government to do what they think necessary.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: This matter, Sir, came up before the House on an earlier occasion and an assurance was given at that time and particularly it was stated that there was no information of hunger strike at all. But in view of the recent information placed before the House by an honourable member I think it is Government's duty to fully enquire into the matter and satisfy us that there is no cause for anxiety..

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, that will be done; I have taken a note of it.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

XVII.—Irrigation, etc.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,49,13,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses—18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues—18(1)—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Famine Insurance Fund—19—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—B—Financed from Ordinary Revenues and 68—Constructin of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works."

Maharajadhiraja UDAY CHAND MAHTAB Bahadur, of Burdwan: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation, etc." be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about emergency irrigation schemes in connection with "Grow More Food" campaign.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, irrigation and food are of paramount importance for the rebuilding of our national life in this province. The gravity of the food problem has been evidenced in a magnified form by the great calamity which now stares us in the face, the scarcity from which millions in Bengal are suffering even now, has not only stirred public opinion abroad but is hampering the war effort in the East. I do not think there is anyone in this House or outside who does not realise the deplorable conditions prevailing in this province. If Bengal is to be saved from ruin and disaster, both her net crop areas under cultivation and acreage produce must be increased. This problem is vitally connected with irrigation. Proper schemes for resuscitating dead and dying rivers and having irrigation canals in areas which normally produce us no crops are absolutely essential.

Sir, most of the work of the Irrigation Department is concerned with piecemeal improvement of waterways and drainage channels which is very unsatisfactory. There has been a consistent demand from all sections of

the House, year after year, for the resuscitation of the dying and decadent rivers in various parts of the province. The necessity and importance of the subject has been admitted by this and previous Governments. But what is it that has stood in our way? It had been said by previous Governments that it was the question of finance that stood in the way. But the financial position of Bengal has remained unchanged since the time of Warren Hastings and unless we can show a united front the pious wishes and benevolent schemes of any Government in power in this province will remain a dead letter for ever. Can the Government take up seriously any elaborate scheme with its present finances? If not, I am sure the Minister in charge will inform the House what steps are going to be taken to get money for such schemes. Schemes and projects cannot be worked out on the plea of such phrases as "abnormal cost", "prohibitive cost", etc. I hope the Hon'ble Minister on behalf of the whole Ministry would not remind us that this year's budget has been framed under the stress and strain of war conditions.

Sir, recently I had occasion to preside over an expert committee where I was informed by one of the members from the Punjab that they are going to start building one of the highest reservoir dams in the world immediately, war or no war. What is our Government going to do with regard to the unanimous recommendations of the Damodar Flood Enquiry Committee? Are they going to preserve it as a relic or do they propose to act on the proposals before the next rains to prevent a recurrence of what happned last year? Since 1856 when the Government took over the zemindary portion of the Damodar embankments and abandoned the left embankment for the protection of the railway lines, the Grand Trunk Road and the Port of Calcutta, proposals have come and proposals have gone, but the floods have gone on for ever uncontrolled.

In the Tennessee valley in the United States of America, one overriding personality, viz., that of President Roosevelt, has transformed the valley within the last few years into a Garden of Paradise where plenty now abounds. I hope Government are going to rise to the occasion and give effect to the recommendations of the Committee I have just mentioned.

Sir, the mischief done by the annual Damodar floods would justify a capital expenditure of a hundred crores for remedial measures, particularly if Government take into consideration the far-reaching damages done in those areas all these years and as to what the total amount came to. The shrinkage of areas under cultivation in Western Bengal is due to the presence of a bad embankment policy, interference with natural drainages by railways and roads and the want of a proper irrigation scheme. In Burdwan and Hooghly districts alone where the areas under cultivation at the end of the last century were 12·5 lakhs and 5·4 lakhs acres, respectively, they have come down to 7·4 and 2·9 lakhs acres and the acreage produce of *aman* paddy from 30 maunds to 20 maunds in the normal years on an average. This means that these two districts alone have been deprived of about 15·2 million maunds of paddy in normal years which could have fed about 2·5 million people. Over and above the annual loss referred to, an area of about 400 square miles in the district of Burdwan has been rendered unfit for cultivation due to the breaches on the left bank of the Damodar last year.

Sir, in John Company days both the *raiyats* and the landlords were entitled to compensation for the loss of their crops due to floods from the Government under the terms of a contract. Since 1856 when the responsibility of the Government became greater and in spite of the provision for compensation in the amended Embankment Act of 1855, Government arbitrarily decided by recording a minute that nobody was entitled to compensation. Remission of revenue was admitted on such ground. I hope the Minister will inform us why such remissions have been withheld.

In conclusion, Sir, I would like to say that with regard to remedial measures regarding the dead and dying rivers of Bengal, there should be a planned action and planning should be done by an All-Province Waterways and Drainage Board. This Board should be immediately constituted along with other post-war planning committees that the Government have now in consideration. The Committee should have a non-official Chairman and a permanent Secretary. It should start collecting facts and figures immediately. We must remember that there is no time to lose. If Bengal is to live and produce more food, her rivers must be revived. (Applause.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the head "XVII—Irrigation, etc." be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the urgency of a comprehensive policy and planning for the furtherance of different categories of irrigation works including "Grow More Food", irrigation projects and the protective works against flood damages, specially of the Damodar.

Sir, it is hardly possible to do justice to this important subject of irrigation in Bengal within the short space of three minutes permitted to me or even five minutes. I shall, therefore, try to put a few salient features for the consideration of Government. Government's continued failure to devise a comprehensive policy for undertaking all classes of irrigation including resuscitation of alluvial rivers in north and Central Bengal, control of tidal rivers in southern Bengal and retention and conservation of West Bengal water resources flowing through hilly and torrential streams, all these have been drawn attention to by me from time to time during previous budget discussions. We still feel, Sir, that even though matters had been under Government's purview for a pretty long time, nothing substantial appears to have been done to devise a comprehensive policy covering all these various aspects of the question. Government, it appears to me, are still tinkering with the problems, small problems which arise out of most immediate issues which they are faced with following some crisis—either crisis due to famine or crisis due to flood and cyclone. There are many very good schemes which Government had in the past undertaken but which remain now practically suspended, and I would like to know whether Government propose to pursue those schemes or they would keep them shelved till eternity. Among those schemes there are very valuable schemes like "Mour Scheme" in the district of Birbhum, Darakeswar, scheme, Howrah-Hooghly flushing scheme, Central Bengal flushing scheme including the resuscitation of Bhairab, Teesta scheme, Gumti scheme, and last but not the least the project now under examination namely the salt lake scheme near about Calcutta.

We feel, Sir, that irrigation in Bengal involves three important aspects —irrigating the soil for agricultural purposes, maintaining and improving

the water courses for transport and the prevention of waterlogging, and improving the conditions of health through proper drainage. Due attention to these aspects has not been directed and the schemes so far undertaken have more or less been enforced either to look in some cases to the drainage portion of irrigation or to the agricultural part of it, but not comprehensively covering both agricultural improvement as well as transport and also with a view to further improvement of health. All the activities of the Department, as I have already stated, appear to be directed to meet immediate problems and sometimes these immediate problems are so handled as not to be commensurate with a big long-term policy. One such scheme we have just now been through in connection with Damodar floods refers to the immediate covering of the breach and more than a crore of rupees has been or is going to be spent for the same. If this amount would have been spent during Mr. Addams-Williams' days by building retard dams as recommended by Mr. Glass no flood damage would have occurred at all and there would have been great prosperity and increase of wealth throughout. It is understood, as Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the President of the Damodar Flood Enquiry Committee, has just now revealed, that his Committee have already submitted their report a fortnight ago and they have recommended among others the construction of three retardation dams at Parjori, Palkia and Usri as already recommended by Mr. Glass and they have also recommended a number of controlled spills and escapements on the left bank thereby resuscitating at the same time some old beds of water courses through the districts of Burdwan and Hooghly and they have further recommended afforestation in the catchment areas. We want to know definitely what Government propose to do to expedite action as per those recommendations. Sir, money should not be the only concern in undertaking these schemes, nor should difficulties due to war conditions stand in the way. I hope Government will not wait for another devastating flood to make them wiser in these respects. It is felt that the money spent will be amply repaid if along with dams suitable electricity generating schemes are coupled and many essential industries like manufacture of fertilisers and aluminium can be undertaken with advantage. While on this, Sir, I would invite the Hon'ble Minister's attention to the loss that has been caused through the silting up of the mouth of the Eden Canal which, I presume, is going to be resuscitated and a new course of Eden Canal is going to be constructed. I would like to know whether failing this or till the Eden Canal is made operative, the collection of the Eden Canal rates has been stopped. For the time being we understand that the persons who are required to pay the rates for the Eden Canal are not exempted and, Sir, I would also request the Hon'ble Minister to let us know whether the sand clearing over the land which has been devastated through the last floods has been undertaken or is going to be undertaken.

The "Grow More Food" campaign requires larger and more enthusiastic undertaking of small irrigation schemes and I congratulate the Hon'ble Minister on the policy that this Government has followed in this respect, but Sir, I submit that unless Government takes people into their confidence and greater co-operation of local bodies and the public is secured, the policy that Government propose to pursue will end in a failure.

So far as the newspaper reports go we have had only about 17 such schemes taken up. This is much too small a number for the province. Emphasis in these is being given on the irrigation through pumping. I submit that there are a large number of small cuts and drainage works which might help to increase the possibility of agricultural improvement more extensively and this should receive greater attention than the construction of pumps particularly those to be worked with the help of diesel engines which may be very difficult to obtain.

With these words, Sir, I move my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. MAQBUL HOSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the head "XVII—Irrigation, etc." be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to re-excavate the silted portion of the river "Titash" from Dharkhar ferry ghat to Akhaura in the district of Tippera to make it navigable.

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, ত্রিপুরা জেলার ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া সবডিভিসনের গঙ্গাসাগর হইতে উত্তর সদর সবডিভিসনের কালিগঞ্জ পর্য্যন্ত হদ বা জাঙ্গাল নামে যে প্রাচীন রাস্তা আছে তাহা সংস্কার ও সংরক্ষণের জন্য আমি এই ছাটাই প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করিতেছি।

সভাপতি সাহেব! বাংলা দেশে বাদশাহী আমলের যে কয়টি রাস্তা আছে তন্মধ্যে হদ বা জাঙ্গাল নামক রাস্তাটি অন্যতম। ইহা পোড়াবাজার জাঙ্গাল নামেও অভিহিত হইয়া থাকে। কথিত আছে যে শের শাহের আমলে পাঞ্জাব হইতে আসাম পর্য্যন্ত এই রাস্তা নির্ম্মিত হইয়াছিল; এবং শের শাহ আসাম বিজয়ের জন্য এই রাস্তা নির্ম্মাণ করিয়াছিলেন—আর ইহার পার্শ্বে পুষ্করিণী ইন্দারা ও পান্থ নিবাস নির্ম্মিত হইয়াছিল। অধুনা স্থানে স্থানে এই সমস্ত কার্য্যের ধ্বংসাবশেষ দেখিতে পাওয়া যায়। কসবা, মোরাদনগর, নবীনগর ও বাঞ্ছারামপুর থানার মধ্য দিয়া এই রাস্তা চলিয়া গিয়াছে। এই সমস্ত থানার লোক সংখ্যা প্রায় ৭॥ লক্ষ। বেঙ্গল-আসাম রেল ষ্টেশনে গাড়ী ধরিতে হইলে, এই রাস্তা দিয়া গঙ্গাসাগর ষ্টেশনে আসিতে হয়। কিন্তু স্মরণাতীত কাল হইতে উক্ত রাস্তার কোন সংস্কারসাধন না হওয়ায় রাস্তাটি স্থানে স্থানে নষ্ট হইয়া গিয়াছে। গঙ্গাসাগর হইতে কালিগঞ্জ পর্য্যন্ত এই রাস্তার ১২ মাইল পরিমিত স্থান পুনর্নির্ম্মাণ করিলে ঐ এলাকার ৭॥ লক্ষ অধিবাসীর বহু কালের দুঃখ কষ্টের কথঞ্চিত লাঘব হইবে। ত্রিপুরা জেলার যে কয়টি প্রসিদ্ধ গ্রাম আছে তাহাদের অধিকাংশ ঐ রাস্তাটির পার্শ্বে অবস্থিত।

পার্লামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারী নওয়াবজাদা খাজা নছরুল্লাহ ও মিঃ মফিজুদ্দিন আহমদের কন্‌ষ্টিটিউয়েন্সির জনসাধারণও এই রাস্তাটির সংস্কারসাধন না হওয়ায় যাতায়াতের ক্লেশে অসুবিধা ভোগ করিয়া আসিতেছে। আমি আশা করি যে তাঁহারা তাঁহাদের এলাকার জনসাধারণের উপকারার্থে এই রাস্তার সংস্কার কার্য্যের জন্য অগ্রবর্ত্তী হইবেন।

পরিশেষে বিভাগীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে আমি অনুরোধ করিতেছি যে, অগৌণে এই প্রসিদ্ধ প্রাচীন রাস্তার সংস্কার ও সংরক্ষণের উপযুক্ত ব্যবস্থা করিয়া বিখ্যাত পাঠান বাদশাহের কীর্ত্তি রক্ষা করুন, এবং কসবা, মোরাদনগর, নবীনগর ও বাঞ্ছারামপুর থানার ৭॥ লক্ষ অধিবাসীর যাতায়াতের সুব্যবস্থা করিতে অগ্রসর হউন।

Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 under the heads "XVII—Irrigation etc.", be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion to raise a discussion about Damodar embankment and measures taken by the Government to prevent Damodar flood havoc.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, দামোদর embankment সম্বন্ধে অনেক কথা আমার পূর্ববর্ত্তী বক্তা মাননীয় বর্দ্ধমানের মহারাজা বাহাদুর অতি সুন্দরভাবে বলেছেন। গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে কমিটি নিযুক্ত করিয়াছিলেন সেই কমিটির কথা শুনতে গভর্ণমেণ্টকে বলছি। তাঁরা যেন পূর্ব্বেকার মতন কমিটির রিপোর্টটা চেপে না রাখেন। ১৯৩০ সালেও একটা কমিটি তখনকার গভর্ণমেণ্ট বসিয়েছিলেন, সে কমিটি কি রিপোর্ট দিয়েছিলেন আমি তার মধ্য থেকে দু চারটে কথা জানাচ্ছি। তখনকার কমিটির রিপোর্টের দশ পৃষ্ঠায় বলেছেন—

"As regards embankments, it is doubtful whether there is any more serious or difficult problem in the whole realm of civil engineering than that which is presented by the deltaic country, the rivers of which than that which is presented by the delataic country, the rivers of which have, by the construction of embankments, been robbed of the possibility of discharging their natural function of land formation. The rivers of Bengal, in their passage to the sea, carry vast quantities of sediment, but their slope through the delta is too small to generate the velocity necessary to transport it."

সেকালে দামোদরের velocity বন্ধ করবার জন্য চেষ্টা করতে এই রিপোর্টের শেষ দিকে বলেছেন :—

"One of the most important of these problems is to be found in the embankments of the Damodar river. These were constructed at the beginning of last century; eighty years ago the engineers, alarmed by the rise in the river levels, demolished 20 miles of the right embankment and 10 more miles were demolished forty years later. The policy of demolishing one embankment only is obviously wrong and its effect cannot be more than purely temporary. Silt has been allowed to deposit on the exposed side with the result, it is stated by the engineers in charge, that the land on the right-bank has on an average risen to a level nearly nine feet higher than that on the so-called protected side, which has, at the same time, been impoverished by the denial of fertilising silt. Both the land on the right bank and, more important, the river bed are said to be rising steadily at the rate of about an inch a year, the protected country on the left bank, including the town of Burdwan, falling relatively to them at the same rate. The protective embankment on that side was raised by three feet between 1914 and 1919 and proposals for raising it still further are now under consideration.

35. We have no hesitation in saying that, if the facts are as represented to us and unless a new policy is adopted, a calamity is bound eventually to occur. In 1913 a flood burst the left bank and spread disaster over a large area." (Page 10.)

আমার কথা হচ্ছে এই যে ১৯৩০ সাল থেকে এ পর্য্যন্ত অনেক discussion হয়েছে। এখন বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রী মহাশয় যে কমিটিটা করেছেন সেটাকে অন্ততঃ কার্য্যকরী করতে, তা ছাড়া মাননীয় মহারাজা বাহাদুর যা বলেছেন সেই অনুযায়ী একটা স্থায়ী ব্যবস্থা করে আমাদের দুরবস্থা দূর করার একটা বন্দোবস্ত বাংলা সরকার তথা মন্ত্রী মহোদয় করতে যেন মনোযোগী হন।

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED KHONDKAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the heads XVII—Irrigation, etc., be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to take up the project of excavation of Tentulia-Balugram canal in the Gopalganj subdivision of the Faridpur district and to keep the Madaripur Bheel route canal navigable throughout the year.

I know that my motion relates to a matter which is purely local but it is no less important on that account. Three-fourths of our subdivision comprise in *bheel* area and in that area paddy is our primary crop. Water does not recede and land does not become dry and hard, so it does not become fit for cultivation. Water-hyacinth grows thick in the stagnant water and moves in columns like glaciers along with strong gale during flood time damaging all crops in the neighbourhood. The project mentioned, namely, the excavation of Tentulia-Balugram canal will remove all these difficulties. This project connects the river Kumar on the north and the Madaripur *bheel* route canal on the south. Water-hyacinth, accumulation of rain water and early flood and inundation in low-lying areas are all great enemies to our crops. The importance of this project will be seen by the Hon'ble Minister from reports of departmental officers. The local people have contributed for the survey and preparation of the scheme. There has been a persistent demand for this project. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to take up this matter in right earnest and do whatever he can. He will earn the blessings and gratitude of 6 lakhs of people of my subdivision. I submit, Sir, that the excavation of Tentulia-Balugram canal will not only remove the difficulties I have pointed out, but will improve sanitation, drainage, trade facilities and communication, and it will also help Government in its policy of "Grow More Food". There will be revenue also from levy of toll which the people will not grudge to pay.

I add a word or two regarding the Madaripur *bheel* canal. The Madaripur *bheel* route canal is a Government work, and it must be maintained and kept in proper order. It has been silted up in places, particularly in its entrance at Haridaspur. Immediate excavation is necessary. The Hon'ble Minister will be good enough to make a tour and go to the site and after seeing the things himself on the spot to direct the departmental officers to do the needful. I would also request the Hon'ble Minister to direct the departmental officer stationed at Gopalganj to regulate the water level of the *khal* through its locks and sluices in such a way that crops on the northern side of the *khal* are not overflooded by sudden rush of water in the months of July and August.

With these few words I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation, etc.", be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion to raise a discussion to resuscitate the river Nabaganga, which is being dried up in Jessore.

এই পরিষদের জন্মের সুরু থেকে বৎসরের পর বৎসর নবগঙ্গা সম্বন্ধে আমি কোন কথা বোলতে বাকী রাখিনি, কিন্তু এই রাজত্বের রাজার কাছ থেকে নবগঙ্গা সম্বন্ধে কোন সাড়া বা প্রতিবিধান আমরা পেলাম না।

নবগঙ্গার দুই কূল দিয়ে যে পণ্যসম্ভার চলে গেছে বৎসরের পর বৎসর তার মূল্য নির্দ্ধারণ করলে কোটি কোটি টাকা দাঁড়ায়। আজ নবগঙ্গার দুই মুখ দিয়ে নৌকা চলতে পারে না।

চৈত্র মাসে জনসাধারণ পায়ে হেঁটে নদী পার হোয়ে যায়। এই বিষয়ে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর নিকট বৎসরের পর বৎসর দিনের পর দিন উত্থাপন করা হোয়েছে, কিন্তু যারা দল রাখিতেই ব্যস্ত, প্রাণ রাখিতেই প্রাণান্ত তাদের কাছ হোতে সহানুভূতি কি করে পাওয়া যায়। এঁরা মুখে বড় বড় কথা বোলে থাকেন। Grow more food campaign এবং অন্যান্য ব্যাপারে কোটি কোটি টাকা খরচ হচ্ছে, কিন্তু যেমন গাছের গোড়া কেটে তার মাথায় জল দিলে কোন ফল হয় না, তেমনি এই সোজা কাজ বাদ দিয়ে Grow more food campaign কিম্বা কৃষি বিভাগের অন্যান্য বড় কথা বোললে আজ হবে না। আজ যে সমস্ত বর্দ্ধিষ্ণু গ্রাম মাথা উঁচু কোরে দাঁড়িয়ে আছে অদূর ভবিষ্যতে তারা হেজে মজে গণ্ডগ্রামে পরিণত হবে। এই নবগঙ্গার দুই তীরে কত হিন্দু মুসলমান কত বর্দ্ধিষ্ণু গৃহস্থ বসবাস করেছে। বড় বড় ইংরাজ কোম্পানীও এখানে ব্যবসায় করেছে এবং কত কৃষক ও মজুর এখানে জীবিকা নির্ব্বাহ করেছে। আজ এমন অবস্থার সৃষ্টি হয়েছে যে এই নবগঙ্গা দিয়ে আজ নৌকা চলতে পারে না। আজ কৃষককুল সেখানে নির্ম্মূল হতে বসেছে। এই অবস্থার মধ্যে সেখানে মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর দামামা বাজাবার লোকের অভাব হবে। এই অবস্থাচক্রের মধ্যে যদি সেই বাসনা করেন তবে বোলব—যদি পারেন, চেষ্টা করুন। বহু বর্দ্ধিষ্ণু পরিবার এই স্থান ত্যাগ করে কলিকাতা বা অন্যান্য স্থানে বসবাস স্থাপন কোরছে।

Mr. HARENDRA NATH DOLUI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation, etc.", be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion to raise a discussion about the failure of Government with regard to the resuscitation of the silted up portion of the river Rupnarayan near the Kolaghat Bengal-Nagpur Railway Bridge in the district of Midnapore.

Sir, I beg also to move that the demand be reduced by Rs. 100 and I want to raise a discussion about the immediate necessity of the materialisation of the scheme of the excavation of Chandreswar Canal through the Chetua Circuit Embankment in the subdivision of Ghatal in the district of Midnapore.

শৈলপ্রসূতা শীলাবতী নদী ও খরস্রোত দ্বারকেশ্বর নদের সম্মিলনে উদ্ভব যে রূপনারায়ণ নদ হাবড়া, হুগলী ও মেদিনীপুর জেলা কয়টির সীমান্তের রেখা স্বরূপ ভারতের মানচিত্রে দীর্ঘকাল ধরে চিত্রিত রয়েছে সেই রূপনারায়ণ স্থানে স্থানে মুণ্ডেশ্বরী, কংসাবতী, প্রভৃতি বেগবতী নদীগুলির সঙ্গলাভে বিপুলায়তন হয়ে সাগর অভিমুখে ধাবিত হচ্ছে। ঐ রূপনারায়ণের বিস্তৃত বক্ষের উপর কোলাঘাট নামক স্থানে বেঙ্গল-নাগপুর রেলওয়ে কোম্পানীর কোলাঘাট Bridge নামক এক প্রকাণ্ড লৌহ সেতু প্রায় ৩০ বৎসরের উর্দ্ধকাল নির্ম্মিত হয়ে রয়েছে। ঐ লৌহ সেতুর বিরাট স্তম্ভরাজি রূপনারায়ণ বক্ষে পাহাড়ের ন্যায় দণ্ডায়মান হয়ে জলপ্রবাহের প্রবল বাধার সৃজন কোরেছে। বর্ষাকালে বন্যাপ্রবাহিত বালি ও মৃত্তিকারাশি উক্ত স্তম্ভগুলি পরিবেষ্টন কোরে স্তূপীকৃত হ'তে থাকে এবং তাহার ফলে ঐ কয়েক বৎসরে উক্ত নদী বক্ষ স্থানে স্থানে বহুদূর ব্যেপে উঁচু হয়ে উঠেছে। বর্ষাকালে বৃষ্টির জলরাশি বন্যারূপে যখন ঐ নদী দিয়া প্রবাহিত হতে চেষ্টা করে তখন তাহা ঐ স্থানে এক প্রবল বাধা পায় এবং নদীবক্ষে ঐ সকল মজিয়া যাওয়া স্থান হইতে আরম্ভ করে ৮।১০ মাইল পর্য্যন্ত বিপরীত দিকে স্ফীত হতে থাকে। ফলে নদীগুলির উভয় তটস্থিত গ্রামসমূহ প্রতি বৎসর সারা বর্ষাকাল ব্যেপে বন্যার গভীর জলে নিমজ্জিত হয়ে থাকে। জল অপসৃত হবার আর কোন পথ থাকে না। দরিদ্র কৃষককুল বর্ষার প্রারম্ভে মাঠের মাঝে যে সকল শস্যাদি চাষ আবাদ করে তাহা সমস্তই চারা অবস্থায় পোচে ধ্বংস হয়ে যায় এবং গ্রামবাসিগণের ঘরবাড়ী ও বহু লোকের বহু মূল্যবান সামগ্রী নষ্ট হয়। গ্রামবাসিগণের বর্ষার সীমা থাকে না।

তাহার উপর আবার এই বৎসর বর্দ্ধমান জেলার কয়েকটি অঞ্চলকে প্রবল প্রতাপ দামোদর নদীর বন্যার কবল হইতে রক্ষা করার জন্য দামোদরের প্রবল বন্যাস্রোত ঐ দ্বারকেশ্বর নদের মধ্য দিয়া ঐ রূপনারায়ণ অভিমুখে প্রবাহিত করবার জন্য ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্টের Techical Committee দামোদর বন্যা Enquiry Committeeর সহিত যে জল্পনা কল্পনা কোচ্ছেন বলে শোনা যাচ্ছে তা যদি প্রকৃতই স্থির হয়ে থাকে তবে ত বিপদের উপর বিপদ এসে হাজার হাজার গ্রাম জনমানব শূন্য হয়ে ধ্বংস হয়ে যাবে। তাহাতে আর কোনই সন্দেহ নাই। এমন কি মেদিনীপুর জেলায় ঘাটাল মহকমার উপরিস্থিত গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিজস্ব প্রকাণ্ড ফৌজদারী আদালত, জেলখানা, ডাকবাঙ্গলা, পোষ্ট আফিস, মুন্সেফ আদালত প্রভৃতি মূল্যবান বাড়ী এবং ঘাটাল মিউনিসিপ্যালিটির অন্তর্গত সমুদয় পাকাবাড়ী, বাজার, হাট পর্য্যন্ত ঐ বন্যার জলের চাপে ডুবে গিয়ে ধ্বংসস্তূপে পরিণত হবে।

অতএব উক্ত বিভাগীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের বিশেষ দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করে আমি অনুরোধ কচ্ছি তিনি যেন অচিরে উক্ত রূপনারায়ণ নদীর চড়া বা Silt গুলি পরিষ্কার করে দিবার বিহিত ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করেন।

এই প্রসঙ্গে আর একটি অতি প্রয়োজনীয় বিষয় আমি মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের অবগতির জন্য যুক্তির স্বরূপ উপস্থিত কচ্ছি যে, চন্দ্রেশ্বর ক্যানেল নামক একটি খাল উক্ত অঞ্চল দিয়া খনন করবার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট বহুকাল ধরে যে একটি বিস্তৃত পরিকল্পনা স্থির করে রেখেছেন বলে শোনা গিয়াছে, এই সুযোগে এই উপযুক্ত সময়ে তাহা যদি কার্য্যে পরিণত করা হয়, তাহলে উক্ত বন্যার দুরূহ সমস্যার অনেক সমাধান হতে পারে এবং অন্য দিকে ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্টের Grow more food compaignএর উদ্দেশ্য সফল করবার এক প্রকৃষ্ট পন্থা আবিষ্কৃত হতে পারে।

অতএব রূপনারায়ণ নদীর silt গুলি ছেঁচে ফেলে দেওয়া, চন্দ্রেশ্বর খালটি খনন করা এবং দামোদরের বন্যার চাপ মেদিনীপুর, হাবড়া ও হুগলী জেলার উপর দিয়া না বহিতে দেওয়া প্রভৃতি কয়েকটি আসন্ন জনহিতকর কার্য্যের প্রতি বিহিত ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্টকে অনুরোধ করে আমি আমার ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব দুইটি এই পরিষদ গৃহে গ্রহণের জন্য উপস্থিত করলাম।

Maulvi WALIUR RAHMAN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation, etc.", be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to take steps to make the Bhairab project successful.

যশোরের যত লোক পুরুষানুক্রমে এ বিষয়টার জন্য চেষ্টা করে এসেছে আমার মনে হয় যে আমাদের মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয় কারো থেকে কম নন এ বিষয়ে চেষ্টা করার জন্য। এই ভৈরব স্কীম যে ছিল, এবং পরে গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে accept করা হয়েছে, তার জন্য আমি আমাদের মহারাজা শ্রীশচন্দ্র নন্দী মহোদয়কে ধন্যবাদ দিচ্ছি; তিনি এটা আরম্ভ করে দিয়ে গেছেন, এবং আরম্ভই হয়ে ছিলো না তার আমলে কাজও কিছু হয়েছিল। এবং আমাদের District Board থেকে ৪০ হাজার টাকা আদায় করে নিয়েছেন। আমি এ সম্বন্ধে District Boardএর Chairmanএর capacityতে কাজটা যখন successful হলো না, তখন Governmentএর কাছে prayer করছি —হয় কাজটাকে successful করা হোক নয়তো District Board থেকে যে টাকাটা তাঁরা পেয়েছেন সেটা refund করা হোক।

একথা সকলেই জানেন যে যশোর জেলার ভৈরবের নিকটবর্ত্তী স্থানে চিনির বহু কারখানা ছিল; আজও অনেক বড় বড় Building ভৈরবের নিকট দিয়া পড়ে আছে। বহু জমিও পতিত পড়ে আছে। ঝিনাইদা ও সদর Subdivisionএ অনেক পতিত জমি

পড়ে আছে। আমি নিজে সেখানে গেছি এবং দেখেছি সে সব জমি বেশ চাষের যোগ্য, এবং দু'চারজন কৃষক আছে যারা যা চাষ আবাদ করে তাতে প্রচুর পরিমাণ ফসল হয়। তাই ভৈরব নদের পুনরুদ্ধার ব্যতীত যশোর জেলার চাষের উন্নতি হতে পারে না। এই কথাটা একবার উপলব্ধি করেই গভর্ণমেণ্ট Bhairab scheme accept করেছিলেন। তারপর এটা সচরাচর দেখা যায় যখন গভর্ণমেণ্ট কোন কাজ আরম্ভ করেন তখন পাহাড় কেটে নদী হয়। কিন্তু যশোর জেলার উন্নতির জন্য এই যে scheme এটাকে successful করা হচ্ছে না, half done কোরে রাখা হয়েছে। হয় সেটাকে শেষ কোরে ফেলা হোক, না হয় বন্ধ কোরে দেওয়া হোক। দিয়ে যশোর জেলাকে অন্ততঃ ম্যালেরিয়ার হাত থেকে বাঁচানো হোক। হয় নদীটা কেটে দেওয়া হোক আর তা যদি না হয় একেবারে ভরাট কোরে দিয়ে যশোরের District Boardএর টাকাগুলি ফিরিয়ে দেওয়া হোক। আমার মনে হয় যশোর District Board যদি এই ৪০ হাজার টাকা independently খরচ করতো, তাহলে এর চেয়ে ভাল কাজ হতো। কিন্তু সে—

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation, etc.", be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to construct small irrigation works for development of cultivation in areas in the Eastern Bengal districts where *aus* and *aman* crops cannot be grown on account of high flood and destruction of crops by water-hyacinth, but where *boro* crops can be grown if small irrigation *khals* can be constructed therein.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been an impression that irrigation is a necessity in Western Bengal districts but it is not a necessity in Eastern Bengal districts. It is not so. Persons who are aware of the conditions prevailing in the Eastern Bengal districts will understand that there is a necessity of small irrigation *khals* there. The Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture is aware of the conditions in Eastern Bengal districts. In the district of Tippera as well as in Dacca there are areas where even deep water paddy cannot be grown on account of high flood and on account of the destruction by water-hyacinth but the *boro* crops also cannot be grown in that locality for want of water. If small irrigation canals can be constructed there, *boro* crops can be grown.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not only a permanent irrigation scheme but this can be considered also as an emergency irrigation scheme. Government has budgeted Rs. 18,44,600 for emergency irrigation schemes. Government has come with a statement in the press as well as in answers to questions that 17 emergency irrigation schemes have been undertaken by Government. In a recent statement issued by Government it is said that all the district boards have been requested to submit 5 more schemes for emergency purpose. But the Government fails to understand that emergency irrigation scheme is a matter which deals with emergency. The scheme must be formulated speedily and must be executed speedily. Unless a scheme is formulated speedily and executed speedily it fails to deal with the situation. Sir, these emergency schemes must be formulated in the course of four months from November to February. For this particular year the period is over. It has been stated that the district boards have been

instructed to submit five schemes and these will be placed for technical examination, and after technical examination if the schemes are found to be necessary these schemes will be put into execution. I am quite sure on account of red-tapism. The district boards will submit schemes, they will be placed for the technical examination and three or four years will pass and the emergency will be over. Government has recently undertaken Diesel Pump Schemes but these schemes are not so much really and absolutely necessary as the small irrigation canals. These small irrigation canals can be constructed with the help of the people, and by these canals thousands of acres of land in those areas can be brought under cultivation and crops can be grown.

So far as the district of Tippera is concerned these areas are found in the Brahmanbaria subdivision specially. Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the following figures you will find the necessity of these in Eastern Bengal districts. The area of Tippera district is 2,531 square miles and the population is 3,860,139. The area of Dacca district is 2,730 square miles and the population is 4,222,143. The most dense district in the province of Bengal is Dacca, next comes Tippera. Unless these small irrigation schemes for the construction of irrigation *khals* are taken in hand immediately and speedily, I am quite sure, Sir, that the people will die by thousands.

I come to the next subject and I want to speak a few words on it, namely, the Gumti Embankment Scheme. This scheme has been hanging fire for hundred years. In a conference held with the representatives of the district of Tippera it was decided that the embankments on both sides shall be abolished. That was the project of the engineers, that was the scheme of the experts, but I hear, Sir, that the Gumti embankment for military purpose is going to be heightened, raised as well as broadened. The policy of the Government was to do away with the embankments but the policy at present is not to do away with the embankments but to widen and to raise the embankments. I want to know what is the policy of the Government in this matter now—why the Government is raising the embankments and widening the embankments.

With these words, Sir, I move my motion for the acceptance of the House and I hope Government will take steps to put into effect the small suggestions I have made in this matter.

Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation, etc.", be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about—

(1) not implementing the "Mour Scheme" in the district of Birbhum,
(2) not compelling private parties or individuals for not attending to the damaged zamindary embankments, and
(3) not paying attention to the Nangalbandha *bheel* in the district of Birbhum.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to speak on a particular subject, which may not be interesting to many, but it is vitally essential to our district Birbhum and parts of Burdwan and Murshidabad. In the year 1927 when the Bakeswar Canal Scheme was taken up during the time of Rai Bahadur R. M. Singh, the then Executive Engineer in charge of the Division, hurriedly, in order

to find work for the labourers during the famine, prevailing at the time, the Mour Scheme was contemplated to supplement the Bakeswar Irrigation Scheme.

At the time, Mr. Addams-Williams and Mr. Roche were Chief Engineers and Mr. T. A. Curry and Mr. Vieyra, Superintending Engineers. After 15 years' close survey of the local rivers and all other aspects a full scheme by the name of "Mour Scheme" was completed and a rough estimate was arrived at. As a construction of a dam (reservoir) measuring 98 feet high and 209 feet long across the river Mour in the Dumka hills in Masanjore was contemplated and the proposed canal was to pass through five other rivers, the prospect of the canal was expected to be uniquely encouraging, The canal when complete will irrigate 461,200 acres of land in Birbhum and parts of Burdwan and Murshidabad. The length of the canal will be 630 miles.

The total estimated cost of the project came to be Rs. 2,72,75,000. It was also contemplated that in addition to the irrigative function of the canal owing to the very favourable and high situation of the reservoir in Masanjore (S. P.) several electrical and industrial schemes would be developed from the natural water power economically.

If this project is given effect to, it will practically save the district from attack of repeated scarcity and famine which has become the special feature of our district. From a statistical account, it is known that within last 132 years the district had good crops only for 12 years. There was no crop for 30 years and the rest had in average ¼th and ¾th of the normal outturn. Consequently we had good rains once only in every 12th year.

Birbhum is a rice-producing district and the cultivation depends entirely on rains. If there is no rain we have to starve. The existing rivers big and small are always dry excepting few days in the rainy season when flood comes in, from the hills. Hence no irrigation facilities can be secured from the river water.

Under the circumstances, the Mour Scheme Irrigation project will be a life and death question of the district.

The existing small Bakeswar canal is only 22 miles in length including branches and it irrigates 7,382·03 acres of lands only. No extension could be made since its construction.

Since 1941, after completion of the survey and estimate of the Mour project, there has been no other talk about it. Probably in the year 1941-42 the then Hon'ble Minister of Revenue Sir Bijoy Prosad Singh Roy with the Hon'ble Finance Minister the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy and with other expert officers visited the place and approved of the very good prospect of the project. In the year 1943 a letter from the Secretary to the Government of India informed that the project will be taken up after the war is over, as a post-war construction work.

I beg to request the Minister in charge to kindly pay attention to this very important project and induce the Government to take up the construction as soon as possible. He must remember that the future life of Birbhum actually depends upon this valuable project. Every year I talked about the Mour scheme in cut motion during the budget, but unfortunately no reply was given to it. I urge the Hon'ble Minister to kindly let us know

what the Government intends to do about this demand and request him to take up their scheme into action all at once. This is the proper time when such action will be of great material use.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the head "Irrigation—Grant No. 10, Civil Budget Estimate, page No. 104" be reduced by Rs. 5,00,000. I move this to raise a discussion that on the principle of "Grow More Food" campaign, Irrigation scheme should be made by putting obstruction over the sweet water River, Khal, Shangka, Dalu, Tankabati, Falda, Kornafully, Matamuri, Bakkhali, etc., in Chittagong and other districts, to utilise the sweet water in foodgrains producing land and thereby general public will escape starvation.

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমি আমার নামের যে মোসনটা আছে তাহা সংক্ষেপে move করিতেছি।

Sir, আমি আমাদের Irrigation Minister মহোদয়কে একটা নূতন বিষয়—একটা নূতন schemeএর বিষয়—যারা কিভাবে দেশে খাদ্যশস্য বেশী পাওয়া যাইতে পারিবে এবং Irrigationএর টাকাটার কিভাবে হইবে তাহার একটা উপায় দেখাইতেছি। এখানে বিভিন্ন জেলার লোক আছেন। তাঁহাদের নিজ নিজ জেলা ভিন্ন অন্যান্য জেলা সম্বন্ধে idea অনেকেরই নাই বলিলেই হয়। কাজেই তাহারা নিজ নিজ জেলার বিষয়ে এখানে যে সকল বক্তৃতা করিয়াছেন সে বিষয়ে আমাদের Irrigation Minister উপলব্ধি করিতে পারিতেছেন না। গত দামোদর স্কীমে স্যার গজনভি সাহেবের সময় আমি নিজে ছিলাম। তাতে ৭ কোটি টাকা ব্যয়ে ঐ দামোদর বাঁধ খাড়া হইয়াছিল। ৭ কোটি টাকা আমাদের পক্ষে হিসাব করা বড় সহজ নয়—একশো লক্ষে এক কোটি। এখন আপনারা ভাবিয়া দেখুন ৭ কোটিতে কত হাজার টাকা হয়। যদি এক বর্দ্ধমানের জন্য ৭ কোটি টাকা ব্যয় হওয়া সম্ভব হইয়া থাকে তবে একটা সমুদয় বাংলার অর্দ্ধেক অংশ পূর্ব্ব বাংলাকে ফেলিয়া রাখিতেছেন কেন? আমি পূর্ব্ব বঙ্গের এবং উত্তর বঙ্গের যেসব দিকে নদী আছে তার কথা বলিতেছি। বাংলা দেশের যেখানেই পাহাড় আছে, প্রত্যেক পাহাড় হইতেই ছোট ছোট নদী মিঠা জল লইয়া প্রবাহিত হইতেছে। নোনা জলে মিশিয়া ঐ সব মিঠা জলগুলি অনর্থক নষ্ট হইতেছে। নোনা জলের সঙ্গে নদীর মিঠা জলগুলি যেখানে মিশিয়া যায় সেখানে ছোট ছোট বাঁধ দিয়া মন্ত্রী মহোদয় মিঠা জলগুলিকে যেসব মালভূমিতে জলের অভাবে ফসল হইতেছে না সেই সব ভূমিতে প্রবাহিত করিয়া দেন তাহা হইলে বর্ত্তমান অপেক্ষা অনেক বেশী ফসল উৎপন্ন হইতে পারে। এখানে আমি কয়েকটি খালের ও নদীর নাম করিতেছি এবং মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করিতেছি তিনি স্বয়ং সেগুলির পর্য্যবেক্ষণ করিয়া এ সম্বন্ধে একটা সুব্যবস্থা করিবেন। শঙ্খ, দালু, টঙ্কাবতী, ফল্দা, কর্ণফুলি, মাতামুড়ি, বাকখালি প্রভৃতি যাহা চট্টগ্রাম এবং অন্যান্য জেলায় প্রবাহিত হইতেছে এ বিষয়ে বন্ধুবর ধীরেন্দ্র দত্ত কয়েকটি ছোট ছোট স্কীমের কথা উল্লেখ করিয়াছেন। তাহাও আমি একবার মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে দেখিবার জন্য অনুরোধ করিতেছি।

এই সঙ্গে আমি আর একটা বিষয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে এবং বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্টকে বলিতেছি এই গভর্ণমেণ্টের যখন একটা মন্ত্রী-সভার পরিবর্ত্তন হয়, সঙ্গে সঙ্গে পুরাণো কাজগুলি লুপ্ত হইয়া দেশের সর্ব্বনাশ হয়। মাননীয় স্যার আব্দুল করিম গজনভী সাহেব Irrigation Minister থাকা সময় এবং তাঁহার সঙ্গে স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন ও অন্যান্য মেম্বর থাকা সময় এই Houseএ Bengal

Waterways নামক একটা আইন হইয়াছিল। সে আইনটা এখনও জীবিত আছে না। খবর দেওয়া হয়েছে জানি না, সেটা জীবিত থাকিলে জলের অভাবে বাংলার এ অবস্থা হইত না—

(At this stage the house was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Morning shows the day. I must congratulate the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Irrigation Department, who is also my leader. I congratulate the Cabinet as a whole, as they have brought in a new era. What was in thought before has been promised in the shape of schemes today, so that Bengal can no more face the disaster of a famine, and pestilence, starvation, death and all that coming in its train. There was required a quantum of imagination, and that has been found in abundance in the Hon'ble Ministers of today. They have already undertaken schemes and they have also been thinking of more and more schemes for the amelioration of the conditions of our people. They have schemes for more sanitation, better drainage, navigation and irrigation, and they are contemplating to do more. Therefore it is a happy moment, and I feel that I must take this opportunity to congratulate them and tell the House that although our friends opposite may not agree we on this side of the House agree that this is the way, this is the morning of the day and our day will be brighter and brighter until we achieve the desired goal.

Now, Sir, one thing I want to tell my hon'ble leader, and that is the minor irrigation schemes brook no delay. They must be gone through. Of course there must be departmental examination but examination with a view to cause delay and obstruction is a thing which must be left out of consideration. You have organisation. You have already asked the district boards to formulate schemes. Their engineers have surveyed and prepared schemes. They also are experts in a way. These are all small things. No damage of any extent to life and property need be apprehended. I would ask the department to expedite the schemes submitted by District Engineers, so that this year we can reap the benefit of the schemes that are before Government. The schemes cost from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 20,000. The drawbacks of those schemes can be avoided by a stroke of one operation which the expert engineers in the department are capable of. It is a question of giving back to the people health, prosperity, drainage and all that. Sir, I would appeal to the Hon'ble Minister not to delay matters, but to have the schemes executed. As for the future, they must consider it as their duty to formulate schemes themselves. This year they have been pleased to call for reports from the district boards but they must know what the circumstances in the countryside are. I may tell Government that the whole of Bengal requires schemes of irrigation, sanitation, etc. It is not this part or that part of Bengal that are in need of such schemes: Northern Bengal, Central Bengal, Eastern Bengal, Western Bengal, all require the schemes and they expect that Government will bring them in no time. They cannot any more say that a *bheel* is there in stagnation and that one *khal* which has been there has accumulated sediment. We want these minor works to be done and we want Government to give us back our health, our prosperity and everything else. Now that the department is undermanned it is almost impossible for the department to undertake

investigation of all the schemes that are brought forward. So it is necessary that more people must be appointed and very quickly so that the schemes may be prepared and given effect to as early as possible.

Sir, one word more about a major scheme. I mean the scheme of resuscitation of the River Chandana. I have been hearing of schemes after schemes since I was 12 years old. I became aware of them from the time of the late Nawab Sir Syed Shamsul Huda. Since then the Chandana river has been deteriorating. There has been a setback in the countryside in the subdivisions of Goalundo, Faridpur, Gopalganj and Madaripur in health, crops, economic condition and navigation. The whole district has been affected. Surveys have been made and engineers had been there from time to time. Every hope has been offered that in my life time the Chandana river will be resuscitated. Though decades have passed nothing has been done. It is admitted on all hands that the scheme is feasible and that it will do an enormous amount of good. The prosperity that is gone must be brought back and it is to be hoped that the present Ministry will do all they can towards this scheme. I am after this scheme for more than 12 years. I am now old. I am in exasperation. Either give me the scheme or wish my death—is all that I can say now.

Mr. M. A. F. HIRTZEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, speaking on the agricultural demand, I emphasized the vital need to Bengal of our acquiring detailed statistical knowledge of the present agricultural position in the Province. Today I wish to emphasise the equally vital need of scientific knowledge and careful planning in the sister field of irrigation. Bengal's livelihood depends on the rivers which are both the source of her agricultural wealth and prosperity and her great natural system of communications. It is obvious, therefore, that scientific planning in irrigation must first direct itself to the maintenance of the water-supply. Recent experience of the flood-cycle has taught us the bitter lesson that it is necessary to reduce the flood flow of the major rivers and equally the experience of 50 years has taught us the vital need to increase the perennial flow as far as that can be done. The solution of this problem, I cannot say too emphatically, lies in the main outside Bengal. Take Assam. In that province the system of *jhuming* cultivation which is of the migratory type and consists in clearing every year a fresh piece of jungle or forest for cultivation will in a short time do much to increase the damage done by floods in Bengal, unless it is brought under scientific control. Again Bengal has a vital interest in the drainage policy pursued by Assam. If that policy leads to a premature discharge of flood water, there will be again both an increase of flooding in Bengal and a fall in the perennial water-supply. Take Bihar. Bitter experience of successive Damodar floods teaches us by its disastrous consequences the results of deforestation on the plateau of Chota Nagpur. In that province as also in the United Provinces I understand that large hydro-electric schemes are under consideration which it is claimed will augment the perennial flow of the main rivers—the Jumna, the Sone and consequently the Ganges. But along with these hydro-electric schemes there are certain to be developments in Irrigation and, unless Bengal is fully satisfied on the point, it is well within the bounds of possibility that more water will be taken from the rivers by the upper provinces than is replaced by the increased

perennial flow resulting from the hydro-electric schemes. We on this side of the House therefore maintain that a regional policy as recently commended by Sir William Stampe in his address to the Punjab Engineering Congress, is the major and vital necessity for Bengal.

Turning to the needs of Bengal itself, I spoke yesterday of the vital need to define clearly in a statistical form the area under the various types of crops in the Province. I also pointed out that when that had been done prudent policy would concentrate on making the maximum use of the existing cultivated areas rather than on their extension at the expense of grazing land and forest. For this purpose the application of planned irrigation schemes is essential. Now for the planning of such schemes the scientific foundation must be contour survey. When the lie of the land has been scientifically analysed the choice of irrigation methods, appears to lie between (1) natural flow combined with adequate drainage, (2) irrigation by pumping, and (3) tank improvement and irrigation from tanks.

Now, Sir, I have dwelt on the need for regional planning and for scientific planning within the Province. It will be interesting to see whether the Hon'ble Minister accepts the view that I have put forward and, if so, to what extent he can claim that progress has been made. So far as we are aware on this side of the House a certain amount of progress has been made towards the setting up of a River Commission on a regional basis to deal with the major rivers coming from the Northern Himalayas and from the east, namely, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna. The progress which has been made however has taken as many years as it should have taken months. We hope to learn from the Hon'ble Minister that this matter is now being actively pursued. So far as the Ganges is concerned and the major problems connected therewith, we believe that no progress has been made at all and I would commend to the Hon'ble Minister's attention the view that an effective and active Commission for the Brahmaputra and the Meghna would be the best possible argument, because it is a practical argument, for the setting up of a similar Commission for the Ganges. So far as developments within the province are concerned, apart from the major schemes which were drawn up in the years before the war by the department, it would appear that no progress has been made towards the scientific development of the existing area under cultivation. I do not minimise the value of the schemes which the department drew up in earlier years and in my speech on this grant some years ago I pointed out to the House that the burden of responsibility for the failure to take them up rested not on the shoulders of departmental officials but on successive Governments and on the members of this House themselves. Yesterday the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister was able to promise the House that steps would be taken to produce adequate agricultural statistics in the near future. We can therefore hope very soon to be in a position in which Irrigation schemes can be more closely correlated on a planned basis to actual needs. As regards present developments the Hon'ble Minister for Irrigation has recently given certain details to the House of experimental schemes of irrigation by pumping. I do not know whether those schemes are related in any planned way to larger schemes. So far as the improvement of tanks is concerned, we believe that no progress at all has been

either made or planned. Earlier I referred to contour survey as being the foundation for further irrigation developments and we view with great concern the fact that expenditure on the survey has been steadily cut down and work is believed to have been arrested.

If, therefore, we view the position in relation to the needs of scientific planning I think it must be recognised that progress is far too slow. We fully recognise the difficulties. There is the shortage of staff in all directions and current cost of execution is prohibitive. We recognise that there must be both short term and long term planning. There is the urgent need to carry out small schemes which can be quickly executed and will assure an immediate increase in production but we consider that even greater attention must be paid to long term planning. There would appear to be no reason why a blue print should not be made on broad lines which would decide the priority basis for future action. And in that blue print scientific study would appear to be the primary and the most urgent need. In this connection I would draw attention to the urgent need to put the River Research Institute on a full active working basis. No worthwhile progress will be achieved either in irrigation or in navigation until that is done. The contour survey must also be resumed and pushed to early completion and the results made available for study. I am aware, Sir, that all these developments will raise once again the old bogey of finance and shortage of personnel. These obstacles must not be allowed to stand in the way. Yesterday I endeavoured to emphasise that floods would be as destructive to the well-being of the province as famine unless we pursue a steady and active policy. Our failure to spend now will mean the dead loss, in a few years' time, of hundreds of times the sums now required to put matters on a sound footing, since that expenditure will be of the most unproductive kind, namely, for the relief of distress. I suggest, therefore, that from the financial angle a forward programme is as much a golden investment for Government as it is for the direct beneficiaries. It seems not unreasonable to suggest that Government's policy in respect of the recovery of costs of large schemes should be settled somewhat on this basis and, once this has been agreed to by all concerned, active execution of schemes should be taken up. We hope very much to hear the Hon'ble Minister in reply assure us that he has in mind plans on the lines I have suggested which I believe are no more than commensurate with the urgent and vital needs of the immediate future.

Mr. Shah Syed COLAM SARWAR HOSAINI: Mr. Speaker Sir, ডাকাতিয়া নদী সংস্কার করার প্রতি আমি Irrigation Departmentএর দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। ডাকাতিয়া নদী চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগ তথা পূর্ব্ববঙ্গের একটি বিখ্যাত নদী। কৃষিকার্য্যের ও ব্যবসায়ের এবং আমদানী রপ্তানীর সহায়তার জন্য ডাকাতিয়া নদী অত্যন্ত প্রয়োজনীয়। ইহা মেঘনার একটি শাখানদী। ডাকাতিয়া নদীর স্থানে স্থানে বিশেষ করিয়া মুখ ভরাট হইয়া যাওয়ায় স্বাভাবিকভাবে রীতিমত পানি যাওয়া আসা করিতে পারে না। জল স্বাভাবিকভাবে নিকাশ হইতে পারে না। ব্যবসা বাণিজ্য, আমদানী রপ্তানী হইতে পারে না। ডাকাতিয়ার দুই পাড়ের কৃষকগণ, বিশেষ করিয়া নোয়াখালি জেলার রায়পুর, লক্ষ্মীপুর ত্রিপুরা জেলার ফরিদগঞ্জ প্রভৃতি থানার কৃষকগণ ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হইতেছে। প্রায় প্রতিবৎসরই বন্যার জলের ন্যায় ডাকাতিয়ার বদ্ধজল কৃষকগণের তিল, সরিষা, মরিচ প্রভৃতি রবিশস্য ও সুপারি বাগান ধ্বংস করিতেছে। চৈত্র বৈশাখ মাসের অমাবস্যা-পূর্ণিমার প্রবল জোয়ারে মেঘনার

লোনা জল ডাকাতিয়ায় প্রবেশ করার দরুণ মাছ মরিয়া যাইতেছে, কৃষি নষ্ট হইতেছে। স্বাভাবিক উপায়ে জল যাতায়াত করিতে পারিলে কৃষকগণের কৃষিকার্য্যের, ব্যবসায়ীর আমদানী রপ্তানীর উপকার হইত এবং মৎস্যকুল ধ্বংস হইত না। ভূতপূর্ব্ব Irrigation Minister কাশিমবাজার মহারাজ ডাকাতিয়া পরিদর্শনে ফরিদগঞ্জ পর্য্যন্ত যাইয়া আর অধিক দূর যাইতে পারেন নাই। বর্ত্তমান Supply Minister Hon'ble সরওয়ার্দ্দি Muslim Leagueএর পক্ষে District Board election propagandaতে রায়পুর যাইয়া ডাকাতিয়া কাটাইয়া দেওয়ার প্রতিশ্রুতি জনসাধারণকে দিয়া আসিয়াছেন। আমি অদ্য Hon'ble সরওয়ার্দ্দিকে তাঁহার প্রতিশ্রুতির কথা স্মরণ করাইয়া দিতেছি। Sir, এই ডাকাতিয়া নদী সংস্কারের অভাবে নোয়াখালী ও ত্রিপুরার কৃষক ও ব্যবসায়িগণ বিশেষ অসুবিধা ভোগ করিতেছে এবং প্রতিবৎসরেই ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হইতেছে। আমি Minister-in-charge Hon'ble B. P. Painএর দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি যাহাতে এই বৎসরেই ডাকাতিয়া কাটাইবার ব্যবস্থা করা হয়।

Mr. PATIRAM ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, যখনই যশোহর জেলার হাজা-মজা নদীর কথা উঠে তখনই খুলনা জেলার হাজা-মজা নদীর কথা মনে পড়ে। উত্তর বঙ্গের অনেক জেলা ঘুরে খুলনা জেলার অধিকাংশ নদী যশোহরের ভিতর দিয়া খুলনার দক্ষিণে সাগরে পতিত হইয়াছে। খুলনা জেলার দক্ষিণ পার্শ্বেই লবণাক্ত সমুদ্র। উত্তরের পদ্মার অগাধ মিষ্ট জলরাশি নদীপথে যশোহরের ভিতর দিয়া প্রবাহিত হইয়া খুলনায় যায়। যে মাঠের উপর দিয়া ঐ জলরাশি প্রবাহিত হয় সেখানকার কৃষির অবস্থা অত্যন্ত ভাল হয়। স্বাভাবিক কারণেই হউক বা যে কারণেই হউক, ঐ নদীপথ বন্ধ হইয়া গিয়াছে। যখন যশোহরের মধ্য দিয়া উক্ত মিষ্ট জলরাশি প্রবাহিত হতে পারে নাই তখন খুলনার অবস্থা খারাপ হইতে বসিয়াছে। উত্তরের জলরাশি হ্রাসপ্রাপ্ত হইয়া দক্ষিণের লবণ সমুদ্রের লোনা জল যখন নদীপথে দিনের পর দিন ভিতরে প্রবেশ করিতে লাগল, তখনই খুলনায় দুঃখের দিন আরম্ভ হোল। একই নদী উভয় জেলায় বর্ত্তমান থাকায় যশোহর ও খুলনার ব্যবসা বাণিজ্য কৃষির অতি নিকট সম্বন্ধ।

এতদিন পর্য্যন্ত আমাদের দেশের ইঞ্জিনিয়ারগণের এবং অন্যান্য দেশের বহু ইঞ্জিনিয়ারের ধারণা ছিল বাংলার তথা "ব" দ্বীপের নদীগুলি স্বাভাবিক কারণে জন্ম নিয়েছে এবং স্বাভাবিক কারণেই মরে যাচ্ছে—ইহা বাঁচাইবার কোন উপায় নাই। কিন্তু Sir William Willcox ভাল করে বুঝিয়ে দিয়েছেন, স্বাভাবিক কারণে নয়—নদীগুলি মরে যাচ্ছে কতকটা কৃত্রিম উপায়ে, মনুষ্য কর্ত্তৃক নদীগুলির উপর লক্ষ্য না থাকার দরুণ। আজিও আমরা দেখি পদ্মা নদীর উচ্ছ্বসিত জলরাশি প্রবলবেগে যেয়ে পদ্মা নদীর মোহনার নিকটবর্ত্তী কতকগুলি জেলাকে ভাসিয়ে দিয়ে যাচ্ছে এবং অন্য দিকে ইহারই শাখা যশোহরের নদীগুলি মৃত্যুমুখে পতিত হওয়ায় জলরাশি বহন করতে পারছে না। আর জলের অভাবে কৃষি নষ্ট হয়ে যাচ্ছে এবং যশোহর ম্যালেরিয়ার আবাসস্থলে পরিণত হচ্ছে। উপরের জলের বেগ হ্রাস পাওয়ায় দক্ষিণ দিক হইতে লোনা জল প্রবলবেগে নদীপথে উত্তরাভিমুখে গমন করিয়া বিভিন্ন পথে কৃষিভূমিতে ঢুকিয়া ফসল নষ্ট করিতেছে। মিষ্ট জল না পাইলে জলে লবণের অংশ অধিক পরিমাণে বিদ্যমান থাকে, আর তাহাতে ফসল নষ্ট করে।

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: Sir, I feel really flattered that two honourable Maharajahs—one in person and the other by proxy—have done me the honour of taking a friendly interest in my demand for this grant. I agree with much of what the Maharaja of Burdwan has said about the importance of irrigation. Irrigation is not merely an important subject but it appears to me to be a subject which is really fascinating.

Sir, as President of the Damodar Flood Enquiry the Maharaja of Burdwan had months of intimate association with the officers of my department and I expected him to say something about the nature and extent of the work which this department has recently undertaken in its determination to break down all barriers and go ahead and about its solicitude for the welfare of the people and the province. The problem of Damodar, he knows, is engaging its earnest attention. Government received the report of the Damodar Flood Enquiry Committee on the 5th of this month and in spite of its many preoccupations, it has had the report under consideration and expects to be able to come to a decision in the course of the next few days.

Speaking for myself, Sir, I personally agree entirely with the recommendations of this Committee and the Maharaja can rest assured that Government will give every possible consideration to the recommendations which this committee has made. I shall be glad to have all the assistance and all the co-ordination which the Maharaja can give us. He has youth on his side, he has many gifts on his side. If he only takes courage into his hands, chalks out his own path and devotes himself wholeheartedly to the real service of the people, I can assure him, Sir, that he will be able to enlarge the scope of his activities and to endear himself to the people of this province.

I claim, Sir, that about irrigation we have a policy as well as a programme. Our policy is to resuscitate dying rivers, to excavate and re-excavate tanks, to conserve hill streams by introducing hydro electric schemes wherever possible, to carry out well planned irrigation and flushing schemes and to introduce forms of irrigation which have never been tried before. In pursuance of this policy, Sir, we are calling conferences of Meghna-Brahmaputra and Ganges River Commissions to consider the question of conservation of these rivers. Bengal, as we all know, is very unhappily placed with regard to its rivers. We are at the mercy of other provinces and States, and our rivers are liable to be tampered with before we can get anything out of it. That is why by means of these Commissions and Conferences we are endeavouring to enlist the sympathy and support of other provinces and States and I am glad to be able to inform the House that we are likely to have a session of this conference in the near future.

Regarding emergency "Grow More Food" campaign schemes, I have to inform the House that 18 new schemes which have been approved by the Government are in course of execution. One in fact, has just been completed. Their total cost is estimated to be Rs. 6 lakhs and will cover as many as 12 districts. Seven other schemes in Hooghly, Khulna, Howrah, Birbhum, Bakarganj, Faridpur and Malda are under examination by Sir William Stampe. They are estimated to cost Rs. 8½ lakhs. We have also called for a very large number of minor schemes from the districts. They have started coming in and they are estimated to cost another Rs. 8 lakhs. We have also put up experimentally two plants for pumping water from suitably placed rivers and *bheels* by means of Diesel oil-driven pumps and are about to put up a third. If the experiment succeeds we shall take up a comprehensive scheme of pump irrigation.

Personally, from what I saw last Sunday, I am convinced that the experiment will succeed and that it will mean a landmark of irrigation in our province.

Apart from the provisions made in the budget, this Government proposes, thanks to the interest which His Excellency the Governor is taking in all matters regarding irrigation, to spend a crore of rupees on irrigation as part of its rehabilitation scheme, and we hope that the Government of India in pursuance of its policy of contributing an equal amount for all our "Grow More Food" campaign schemes will contribute another crore. This will enable us to quicken our pace and to achieve solid results during the year. We are expanding and strengthening the River Research Institute which has been doing good work, and I agree with what Mr. Hirtzel has said about the usefulness of this branch of the department.

Our one great difficulty, Sir, has been the paucity of officers. This department is hopelessly undermanned and we have not even been able to get back all the officers whom we loaned to the Central Government. The Damodar disaster added to our difficulties. Private contractors have snapped up the disengaged and retired overseers by offering them more attractive pay than what our rules of appointment allow us to offer. We have, notwithstanding, been able to create a new circle called the North-Eastern Circle and we are endeavouring to recruit officers from other provinces. On last Saturday and yesterday again, we had conferences with the Chief Engineer, the Superintending Engineers and all Executive Engineers and we reached certain conclusions from which I expect to be able to expand the department very considerably. May I not therefore claim that we have a policy as well as a programme of irrigation for this province? I admit, Sir, that the programme which I have outlined above, though it is far ahead of all previous programmes, is a modest one compared to our needs. But we have made a beginning and with the good wishes of everyone of you we expect to be able to enlarge it very considerably.

Sir, analysing the cut motions which have been tabled, I find that every part of the province has its grievance. North Bengal members say that nothing has been done for North Bengal. East Bengal says that East Bengal has been totally neglected and West Bengal says that nobody has looked after it. Now, Sir, these criticisms, if I may be permitted to say, are partly the result of ignorance of what has been done and is being done. In West Bengal, Sir, there is the Damodar Canal. It was constructed at a cost in those days of more than one crore of rupees and we all know what valuable results it has been yielding. In West Bengal we have also got the Bakeswar Canal in Birbhum; we have also got the Salbund and Anjore Canals in Bankura; we have got the Midnapur Canal in Midnapur; we have the Eden Canal in Howrah, Hooghly and Burdwan. With regard to the Eden Canal Dr. Sanyal said that it was not functioning properly. Part of it is out of order, and we are taking steps to restore it as soon as possible. With regard to the suspension of rate, this portion is not in order. He knows more than I do that I alone have not the authority for suspending revenue in any part of the province.

(Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The Irrigation Revenue is yours!) But I have got to consult the Revenue Minister and get his permission also. We have also the Rajapur Barajola in Howrah. The House will be interested to hear that we are seriously examining the possibility of executing the Mour Reservoir Scheme and Howrah and Hooghly Flushing Scheme in the near future.

With regard to East Bengal some people say that there is no need for irrigation; some say there is. All that I need say is that there we are conserving the rivers by dredging wherever necessary. We have undertaken irrigation schemes in Chittagong and have almost completed the Boaljuri *khal* in Comilla, Durgapur-Babla *khal* in Bakarganj and we are awaiting the Government of India's approval for reclamation of the Northern *bheel* which is estimated to cost more than five lakhs of rupees.

In North Bengal the situation is entirely different. North Bengal has not claimed any attention from anybody in the past, and I find that the previous Ministry passed an order suspending all new works of irrigation anywhere in the province which do not relate to war or defence. Sir, as I said in my last budget speech, the present Ministry disagrees with that policy of the previous Ministry (Cries of "Hear, hear" from Ministerialist Benches) and we have taken in hand more schemes in Rajshahi, Bogra and Malda. Mr. Hirtzel will be interested to hear that we are also contemplating resumption of contour survey which was suspended under orders of the previous Ministry, and without which no well planned or practical scheme of irrigation can be taken up in North Bengal.

Then, Sir, coming to the cut motion of Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose with regard to resuscitation of the river Nabaganga, I have to inform the House that in the opinion of experts of this department the Ghuznavi Cut and Bhairab Project are believed to improve matters. At any rate, however, the Central Bengal Flushing Scheme which is under preparation provides for improvement of this river.

With regard to the cut motion of Mr. Adwaita Kumar Maji regarding the Damodar Embankment, the House knows what terrible times we had from July last. The breach occurred on the 16th July last. We immediately took up the work of closing the breach regardless of what was going to cost us and of the difficulties ahead of us. Five times we were very near completing the closing of the breach and five times almost at the point of completion it gave way again and it was in December that we were able to close the breach at a cost of Rs. 20 lakhs which I am glad to inform the House has all been given to us by the Government of India. We have now undertaken the work of remodelling the left embankment of Damodar. We are spending this year a sum of Rs. 1 crore and 9 lakhs placed at our disposal by the Government of India. This does not mean that that is all the work of remodelling which can be done, but that is all the work which can be done before the rains come upon us. I do not say, Sir, that this will make us flood-proof. What I claim is this that we are doing all that we possibly can, and though there is undoubtedly an element of risk present we expect that from what we have done the embankment will stand the test. After the rains we propose to take up

the work again and we expect that we would then have to spend about 4 crores of rupees, two crores of which would be spent on the purchase of plants and equipments. I do not think that we would be able to make the left embankment absolutely proof against breaches and floods. At the same time we realise that that is not all that should be done in regard to the Damodar, and that was the reason why we appointed the Flood Enquiry Committee of which the Maharajadhiraj was the Chairman. The Flood Enquiry Committee has submitted its recommendations, which I am glad to inform you, are absolutely unanimous. All the members agree in the recommendations which they have made and as I told you just now personally I agree with them also. I believe that Government will not hesitate to take up those recommendations and try to execute them regardless of what the cost might be.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: When?

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: As soon as possible. No time will be lost. If in 40 or 50 years nothing had been done, what could you expect us to do in the course of 4 or 5 months?

As soon as the breaches occurred in July, I appointed a Committee. The Committee submitted its report on the 5th of this month. By the time the month is out, the Government will have come to some definite conclusions regarding these recommendations. I may tell the House that this involves the appointment of a special officer and I have already requested Mr. Savage, the famous American Dam expert to come and advise us in the matter. Mr. Savage, I am glad to be able to say, has agreed, and I am sure that when we have got Mr. Savage's report on what is to be done we will be able to go ahead and I am sure with a sympathetic Governor, like Mr. Casey, we should be able to finish the scheme as soon as possible.

With regard to Mr. Harendra Nath Dolui regarding the resuscitation of the silted portion of the river Rupnarayan near Kolaghat Railway bridge, I confess that this cut motion has taken me completely by surprise. There is absolutely no report that this portion of the river is silting up. On the other hand, Rupnarayan is cutting the left bank and the Railway are taking steps to protect their lines which does not surely mean that the river is silting.

With regard to the cut motion of Mr. Harendra Nath Dolui about the excavation of Chandreswar Canal, I may inform him that a proposal for a sluice at the point of Chetua Circuit Embankment is under examination.

I have already informed Dr. Sharat Chandra Mukherji that we are considering the Mour Scheme which has been revived and the Chief Engineer has been asked to take steps to work out details for sanction and execution. The scheme as it was originally framed was to have cost Rs. 2 crores. Today it would cost much more. Therefore the scheme has got to be examined anew.

With regard to the request for action about zemindary embankments he probably knows that I have already introduced in the other House legislation for the purpose of dealing with a situation like that. The principle underlying the Bill is that whenever a private embankment gives way and the zemindar does not take any interest, Government will

at once step in, will do the necessary repairs and proceed to recover the cost from the zemindar. I may assure my honourable friend that all possible steps have been taken for the purpose of protecting zemindary embankments.

With regard to the cut motion of Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar about the failure of Government to take up the project of excavation of Tentulia-Balugram Canal in the Gopalganj Subdivision, I may inform him that the excavation of that canal is included in the Northern Bengal Scheme which is awaiting the approval of the Government of India. The river Lower Kumar has been silting. There is a project in course of preparation for controlling silting up by making a cut from the Lower Kumar to the Upper Kumar.

The cut motion of Mr. Maqbul Hossain refers to re-excavation of the silted portion of the River Titash in Tippera. The current is too slack to remove all the silt and the question whether an alternative route from Akhaura to the Meghna River is possible is under investigation.

Lastly, Sir, Maulvi Waliur Rahman's cut motion is about the failure to make the Bhairab Project successful. I will tell him that Government has not yet received that the project has failed. The object of the project was to connect certain *bheels* with the Bhairab River. This object was believed to have been achieved, but quite recently—a day or two ago—a report has been received from the District Board that things are not going on well. We have at once taken it up and if anything goes wrong, we shall certainly do our best to put it right.

May, I not, therefore, in view of all these facts once again claim that Government has both a policy and a programme of irrigation, and may I not ask for the support and co-operation of those who have the best interests of the province at heart.

The motion of Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar, that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses—18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues—18(1)—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Famine Insurance Fund—19—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—B—Financed from Ordinary Revenues and 68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses—18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues—18(1)—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Famine Insurance Fund—19—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—B—Financed from Ordinary Revenues and 68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Maqbul Hosain that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses—18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues—18(1)—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Famine Insurance Fund—19

—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—B—Financed from Ordinary Revenues and 68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Adwaita Kumar Maji that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses—18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues—18(1)—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Famine Insurance Fund—19—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—B—Financed from Ordinary Revenues and 68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses—18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues—18(1)—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Famine Insurance Fund—19—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—B—Financed from Ordinary Revenues and 68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses—18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues—18(1)—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Famine Insurance Fund—19—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—B—Financed from Ordinary Revenues and 68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Harendra Nath Dolui that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses—18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues—18(1)—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Famine Insurance Fund—19—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—B—Financed from Ordinary Revenues and 68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Harendra Nath Dolui that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses—18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues—18(1)—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Famine Insurance Fund—19—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—B—Financed from Ordinary Revenues and 68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Waliur Rahman that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses—18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues—18(1)—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Famine Insurance Fund—19—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works

—B—Financed from Ordinary Revenues and 68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses—18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues—18(1)—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Famine Insurance Fund—19—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—B—Financed from Ordinary Revenues and 68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

Th motion of Dr. Sharat Chandra Mukharji that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses—18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues—18(1)—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Famine Insurance Fund—19—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—B—Financed from Ordinary Revenues and 68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 1,49,13,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation etc.—Grant No. 10, Civil Budget Estimate, page No. 104" be reduced by Rs. 5,00,000, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prosanna Pain that a sum of Rs. 1,49,13,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "XVII—Irrigation, etc.", was then put and agreed to.

50—Civil Works and 81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 75,77,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 75,77,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 in order to raise a discussion about the failure to further road projects, particularly those in rural Bengal including village roads.

I also beg to move that the demand be reduced by Rs. 100 in order to raise a discussion about the maladministration and corruption in the department specially in regard to the selection of contractors.

Sir, again I have to submit that within the short time at my disposal it is hardly possible to do justice to a subject of this importance. I feel, Sir, that the Government of Bengal cannot take any credit for having given proper attention to this very important subject of improving communications in this province. From a study of the Budget it appears that the present Government has gone back on the progress made during previous years to such an extent that some explanation is called for. In the year 1940-41 we had utilised nearly Rs. 29,47,000 from the Central Road Fund for communications in the province; in 1941-42 we spent Rs. 31,07,000; in 1942-43, however, it went down to Rs. 8,30,000 and the

Budget for 1943-44 provided for Rs. 18,00,000 which had to be reduced at the Revised Estimates, and it was only Rs. 14,26,000 and suddenly there has been a drop from that to Rs. 6,10,000 only in the coming year. Even out of that amount, it will appear from a study of pages 71-72 of the Red Book, so far as the provision for Road Development Fund works to be carried out by the Communications Department is concerned, that only Rs. 4,28,000 is provided. A study of page 72 shows that Road Fund works to be carried out by local bodies or by the Communications and Works Department on their behalf account for only Rs. 1,82,500 as against Rs. 5,75,500 of the previous year. There has thus been a sad and sudden stoppage of road development works in the province. It appears that among other reasons—the reasons stated now—a new reason has been added to the reasons stated last year, is the curtailment of activities as an anti-inflationary measure. Formerly we were under the impression that the road development work could not be proceeded with because of scarcity of materials, but a new and quite unprecedented explanation now appears to be given. In previous years Government could not proceed with the construction of tarred and macadamized roads in the province for the time being for want of materials. Why should they not complete the survey work and take up the construction of road basis—I mean, the foundation? They can proceed with this work for this and the next year; and as soon as road materials are available the completion of the roads can be undertaken.

Sir, I feel that the Government can, if they so desire, pursue a policy of expansion of the road without invoking either inflation or the war conditions, and in this respect I feel again, Sir, that the department has failed miserably.

With regard to my second point, I have already stated during previous debates that we consider it to be highly prejudicial to the interest of the province to have contracts divided out on the basis of the *communiqué* or the circular letter that was issued by the Government of Bengal on the 9th December, 1943, stating that contracts would be divided amongst communities in the proportion of 1:1, and if a sufficient number of Muslim contractors are not available, not more than 50 per cent. of the total contracts should be given to non-Muslims and every effort should be made for the training of Muslim contractors. I submit, Sir, I have every sympathy for the increase of Muslim contractors in the department but the manner in which it has been said to be done is something preposterous. It is absurd that the Province should keep one half of its work stopped unless and until a sufficient number of contractors of a particular community are forthcoming. I would like to know what explanation the Hon'ble Minister would like to give to this.

There is another point I would like to criticise, namely, the selection of contractors by a Ministerial Board. This is a matter which has raised a considerably important issue. Formerly the selection of contractors was in the hands of permanent officials (At this stage the member reached the time-limit but was allowed to finish) but recently it has been brought under the control of a Ministerial Board. But the selection of contractors under the present system, even if it is done fairly and honestly, leaves room for doubt about honesty. I submit, Sir, that it has not been

fair on the part of the Ministers to take upon themselves the task of actually selecting particular contractors. They could have, if they had so chosen, rightly laid down a policy which other officers might follow. If their argument is that officers are not trustworthy and are open to bribery and corruption, I submit the Ministers also may not be above the same.

Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 75,77,000 for expenditure under the head "50—Civil Works and 81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about road development in rural areas.

আমি বলতে চাই যে, আজ পর্য্যন্ত গভর্ণমেণ্ট Road Developmentএর পরিকল্পনা করেছিলেন, তা বাংলাদেশে কার্য্যে পরিণত হয় নাই। জেলা বোর্ডের হাতে এই কাজ দেওয়া হয়েছে, কিন্তু জেলা বোর্ডগুলি আদৌ এই কাজ করতে পারছেন না। বর্ত্তমান সময়ে India Government টাকা পাওয়ার জন্য রাস্তা নির্দ্দিষ্ট করেছিলেন, কাজ করতে হবে এই রাস্তায়। কিন্তু বাংলার মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী তাহা কার্য্যে পরিণত করিতে পারেন নাই। বড়লাট বলেছিলেন, রাস্তাঘাটের উন্নতির এবং যানবাহনের উন্নতির বিশেষ প্রয়োজন আছে। যাতে মন্ত্রী মহাশয় পল্লী অঞ্চলে রাস্তাঘাটের উন্নতি কোরে যানবাহন চলাচলের ব্যবস্থা কোরতে পারেন তার চেষ্টা করুন। আজ পল্লী অঞ্চলে যানবাহনের অসুবিধা দূর করতে না পারলে relief কার্য্যের সুবিধা করা যাবে না। সেইজন্য আমি বিশেষভাবে আমাদের পল্লী অঞ্চলের Road Developmentএর প্রতি নজর রাখতে অনুরোধ করি।

Maulvi MAQBUL HOSSAIN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 75,77,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about repairing and maintenance of ancient road "Hod Jangal" running from Gangasagar to Kaliganj in the district of Tippera.

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, ত্রিপুরা জেলার ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া সাবডিভিসনে ধরমার খেয়া ঘাট হইতে আখাউড়া পর্য্যন্ত তিতাস নদীতে যে চর পড়িয়াছে তাহা কাটাইয়া যানবাহন চলাচলের উপযুক্ত করিতে গভর্ণমেণ্ট অসমর্থ হওয়ায় অদ্য আমি এই ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব উপস্থিত করিতেছি।

পূর্ব্ব বাংলায় আখাউড়া একটি প্রসিদ্ধ বন্দর ও রেলওয়ে জংশন। কলিকাতা ও বাংলা-আসামের অন্যান্য প্রসিদ্ধ স্থানের সহিত আখাউড়ার সংযোগ আছে। এখানে লক্ষ লক্ষ মণ ধান, চাউল ও পাট আমদানী হয় এবং এখান হইতে দূরবর্ত্তী বন্দরে রপ্তানী হইয়া থাকে। কিন্তু ধরমার খেয়াঘাটের পূর্ব্ব দিক হইতে আখাউড়া পর্য্যন্ত প্রায় তিন মাইল স্থান তিতাস নদীতে চর পড়িয়া যাওয়ায় যানবাহন চলাচল বৎসরে ছয় মাস বন্ধ থাকে। ইহাতে আখাউড়ার ব্যবসা বাণিজ্যে ব্যাঘাত ঘটিতেছে ও আখাউড়ার গুরুত্ব নষ্ট হইয়া যাইতেছে। কুমিল্লার উত্তর, সদর ও ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া সাবডিভিসনের মধ্যে আখাউড়াই একমাত্র পাটের বন্দর এবং তিতাস নদী নৌকা যোগে যাইবার একমাত্র পথ। তিতাস নদীর যানবাহন চলাচলের পথ রুদ্ধ হওয়ায় জনসাধারণ ও ব্যবসায়িগণ অত্যন্ত অসুবিধা ভোগ করিয়া আসিতেছে। রেলওয়ে জংসনের দিক দিয়াও আখাউড়ার গুরুত্ব কম নহে। এস্থান হইতে রেলগাড়িযোগে আসাম, চট্টগ্রাম ও কলিকাতায় যাতায়াত করা যায়। আখাউড়ার পশ্চিম দিক অত্যন্ত জনবহুল ও রাস্তাঘাট শূন্য স্থান। নৌকা-যোগে আখাউড়ায় যাতায়াতই ঐ সমস্ত স্থানের লোকের একমাত্র অবলম্বন। কাজেই প্রস্তাবিত চর কাটাইলে একদিকে যেমন আখাউড়ার ব্যবসা-বাণিজ্যের সুবিধা হইবে, অন্যদিকে রেলওয়ে

জংশনেরও উন্নতি হইবে। এইজন্য আমি মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীকে অনুরোধ করিতেছি, তিতাস নদীর উক্ত চর কাটাইয়া আখাউড়া বন্দরের গুরুত্ব রক্ষা করুন এবং জনগণের ব্যবসা-বাণিজ্যের ও যাতায়াতের সুব্যবস্থা করুন।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 75,77,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about extending the prayer-room of the Chittagong Court or to arrange for a shade in front of the prayer-room. When the prayer-room was allotted then the number of Muslim employees was much smaller in number than the present.

আমি আমার নামের প্রস্তাব move করিতেছি। এই প্রস্তাবে চট্টগ্রাম কোর্টে নামাজের বিধি-ব্যবস্থার কথা আলোচিত হয়েছে। বর্ত্তমানে সেখানে যে নামাজ পড়ার ব্যবস্থা আছে তাতে মাত্র ২০ জন লোকের নামাজ পড়ার স্থান আছে। গত ১৪ই মার্চ্চ প্রশ্নোত্তরের সময় আমি বোলেছিলাম, ৩৫ বৎসর পূর্ব্বে যখন মাত্র ২০ জন কর্ম্মচারী ছিল তাদের নামাজ পড়ার ব্যবস্থা হয়েছিল। এখন মুসলমান কর্ম্মচারীর সংখ্যা হয়েছে ২৮১ জন। সেইজন্য নামাজের স্থান বাড়িয়ে দেওয়া দরকার। এই পরিষদে ১৫০ জন মেম্বরের স্থলে ২৫০ জন হওয়ায় নামাজের স্থান বাড়িয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে। Writers' Buildingsএও মুসলমান কর্ম্মচারীর সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি পাওয়ায় স্থান বাড়িয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে। High Courtএও স্থান বাড়িয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে কিন্তু চট্টগ্রাম Courtএ নামাজের স্থান বাড়িয়ে না দেওয়া আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে অন্যায় বলে মনে করি।

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 75,77,000 for expenditure under the heads 50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about failure of the Government (*1*) to remedy the grievances of the public travelling by tramways in the city of Calcutta on account of overcrowding, and (*2*) stopping of transfer tickets and midday concession tickets and difficulty in obtaining monthly tickets.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this connection I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the statement issued by the Acting Agent of the Tramways Co., Ltd.: "Whilst every endeavour has been made by the Company to put into service every vehicle possible to cope with the abnormal traffic now offered, there are many reasons why it has not been possible to keep on the road the maximum number of tramcars. In the past few months, the number of tramcars smashed up by reckless military driving has reached astounding figure and has become so bad that we have addressed the Chamber of Commerce on the subject and they in turn have made representations to the authorities concerned. The accident figures have risen as high as 217 in a month and in the vast majority of cases entirely due to the military vehicle driver's fault. This in itself contributes in no small extent to congestion and lack of vehicles so necessary to carry the large number of passengers requiring transport."

Sir, I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the state of facts and I want to know what steps Government have taken in order to remove the grievances that have been alleged by the Acting Agent of the Tramways

Company regarding the conduct of the military drivers in smashing up the tram cars.

Then, Sir, before I take my seat I would like to speak on a motion which I had with regard to the grievances of the public travelling by the railways. In answer to question No. 46 put by me, Government say that Government are aware of the grievances of the public travelling by railways on account of over-crowding, on account of the cutting of passenger trains and on acount of having no water in latrines. Now, Sir, it cannot be said that these all are due to military reasons. Today we have received a report that out of three trains—running from Laksham to Noakhali, two have been stopped and only one train remains. Sir, Government are aware of the grievances mentioned by me in question No. 46, but Government say that Government are not in a position at present to take any special steps to have the grievances removed.

Sir, I know this is a matter which relates to the Central Government and the Railway Board, but Government do not think it desirable even to move the Government of India or the Railway Board to have the grievances redressed. This is regrettable to say the least. I hope Government will take steps to remove the grievances as soon as possible. This is absolutely necessary because if the transport facilities are not given and civil requirements are not considered, a very difficult situation will arise and, as a matter of fact, civil population will die by thousands and lakhs.

Mr. C. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the whole position with regard to communications and transport has entirely changed within the last six months. As you are aware, Sir, His Excellency the Viceroy has put communications in the front rank of post-war planning. We all know how necessary roads are and the Indian Road Transport Development Association have done good work in the past 15 years in hammering away at the problem. Recently they made two pilot surveys on the Bombay side which will be most useful to the post-war committee. Bengal, Sir, has had a general survey called the King's Report and we are ready to get on with the work when the administrative and financial matters have been decided upon.

There must be a separate Department of Engineering for Roads and Roads Construction, and I do not know whether Government has given any consideration to that matter. The present method of administration is obsolete. On the 9th of March addressing a Press Conference Sir Mohamed Usman, Member for Post and Air, Government of India said as follows:—

> "Government attach very great importance to the provision of an adequate system of roads and road transport as part of their plans for the development of India after the war. Good, cheap and ample communications are vital to the agricultural, industrial, commercial and cultural development of India."

Thus said Sir Mohamed Usman when he commented on the 20-year programme for building 400,000 miles of roads at a cost of Rs. 450 crores proposed by the Chief Engineers' Conference held at Nagpur in December last year and the report of the Transport Sub-Committee of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee. He said "The programme envisaged is an ambitious one but that need not frighten us. We propose to go on with

our examination undeterred by fears of finance and other difficulties." The report suggests that all Provinces and States should prepare skeleton schemes or project estimates for submission to the Centre by the end of August, 1944. They are required to indicate priority for the projects proposed for construction during the first two years after the war. The Centre would decide the priorities for national highways. Detailed estimates for all projects are required to be ready by December, 1944.

I do not know whether our Government has received as yet any communication from the Central Government, but I hope the Hon'ble Minister is in a position to prepare skeleton schemes, or Project Estimates, by the end of August, and detailed Estimates by December of this year as suggested by the Central Government.

His Excellency the Viceroy has said:—

> "I put communications first, since I do not see how it is possible to effect any great improvement in health and education in the villages of India until they can be reached surely and quickly at all times."

and it is up to us to see that communications are dealt with properly and energetically. I have suggested that a Road Department be set up quite apart from the present Public Works Department. Only in this way can the work be properly carried out.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: Sir, I shall first of all deal with the cut motion moved by Dr. Sanyal regarding maladministration and corruption in the department. When so many wild stories have been in circulation for the past three weeks, I thought that something dreadful was going to be said about maladministration and corruption on the floor of this House, but nothing has been said. I think, therefore, that opinions have changed and that people have now realised that this Department of which I am in charge is above corruption.

Sir, I think that I should take the House into my confidence. I consider it to be my duty to take the House into my confidence and tell the House as to what the exact position today is. Government has now taken upon itself the responsibility for the selection of contractors and the distribution of contract works. Sir, Government has taken the responsibility and has appointed a board of four to deal with these matters. Of the four, two are Ministers, the other two are the Chief Engineer and the Superintending Engineer concerned. Sir, this has been done because allegations of corruption in the department had become hardy annuals in all previous budget discussions and because complaints were being made that everyone was not getting a fair deal and that favoured contractors of one community were having the monopoly of all the works. The present method is giving all round satisfaction and every contractor so far selected has been selected with the unanimous approval of this Board.

Sir, I am not ashamed at all of having done my best to encourage Hindu and Muslim contractors equally, and of having introduced the principle that heavy contracts should not be monopolised by any single contractor, but should be distributed amongst as many capable men of all communities as possible. If you are conscientious, if you want to remain above corruption,

you cannot allow the favoured contractors to have the monopoly of all the work from years end to years end. New men must be brought in. A certain allegation about contractors was made some time ago, but I am not going to say anything about that now, since it has not been repeated on the floor of the House today. But I am happy to be able to say that in all my attempts to change the system of selection of contractors and distribution of contracts, I have had nothing but the most loyal and enthusiastic support from both the Chief Engineers. Attempts were made to rouse in them prejudices and passions against me, but I am very happy to be able to say that they resisted all these infamous attempts and I can assure the House that Government will adhere to the method which it thinks to be the best in spite of malicious propaganda and offensive fulminations. Dr. Sanyal sees corruption and maladministration, stalk and strut through every phase of administration and there appears to be no hope for this hapless province until everything and everybody are placed under Dr. Sanyal's sole and unrestricted charge. Then perhaps will come Bengal's Utopia, when everything will be perfect,—there will be perfect laws, perfect politics, perfect debates, perfect morals and perfect men and women and when the crash comes, there will be perfect ruination and eternal damnation for the province.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 75,77,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 75,77,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Adwaita Kumar Maji that the demand of Rs. 75,77,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Maqbul Hosain that the demand of Rs. 75,77,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Badi Ahmad Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 75,77,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 75,77,000 for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prosanna Pain that a sum of Rs. 75,77,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to revenue" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 6-55 p. m. till 4 p.m. on Wednesday, the 29th March, 1944, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 29th March, 1944, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 201 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Government department responsible for collection of vital statistics of Bengal.

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: On a point of privilege, Sir. My question No. 200 does not appear in full here. Only a part of it is shown and I should like to know what has happened to the rest of my question.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: This is only a part of the question which was sent to the Home Department and a reference was made to the Assembly Department that the other part of the question may be sent to the relevant department to deal with.

***200. Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR:** Will the Hon'ble Chief Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state which department or departments of the Government of Bengal have been placed in charge of collecting and maintaining vital statistics of the Province?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): Public Health and Local Self-Government Department.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: May I enquire of the Hon'ble Minister, when the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government and the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department gave conflicting and contradictory answers with regard to the statistics of deaths from starvation, as has been done in the past, whom should we rely upon?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that there is no place in the record book of deaths where deaths from starvation are to be recorded in the union boards?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It is a fact that previously there was no column for recording deaths from starvation, but subsequently instructions have been issued to keep a separate column or at least to keep a mark in the same column to show deaths due to starvation.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department supplies figures relating to deaths arising from starvation to other departments?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That question may be referred to the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department.

Mr. SPEAKER: I should like to impress upon the House that the question here simply is, who is the Minister in charge and the answer is the Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department. I am afraid, therefore, that out of this very few supplementary questions can arise.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: May we know, Sir, who actually was the authority who utilised the question for the purpose of making a reply?

Mr. SPEAKER: With regard to that point, I am afraid that that is again a vexed question. The procedure about questions as to how a question should be framed and how a question should be answered has not yet been finally settled. You may say that I should have looked into it already but I am awfully busy now. I hope I shall be in a position to make some statement with regard to this point shortly, but again I am afraid whether I shall be able to do so or not. This question was sent, as far as I know and I am speaking from memory, to some department and that department returned it saying that a part of it related to that department but the other part related to some other department; and under the existing circumstances I ordered that this may be done.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: In view of the fact that supplementaries may arise out of this question is it not desirable that this question together with its answer should be held over and taken up later along with the remaining portion of the question and the answer thereto?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I submit, Sir, that no useful purpose will be served by holding over this part of the question. This is just to enquire from the Hon'ble the Chief Minister as to which department should be addressed with regard to vital statistics, to which the reply given is, Public Health and Local Self-Government Department.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: In view of the answer just given by the Parliamentary Secretary, may I enquire when the circular was issued to keep a record of deaths resulting from starvation?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That question may be addressed to the Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department.

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: In view of the answer just given——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid if one such question is allowed it is quite likely that subsequent questions may come up which are absolutely irrelevant.

Number of Superintendents in High Court.

*201. **Dr. SANAULLAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the present number of departmental Superintendents in each side of the High Court; and

(*ii*) the number of them that are—

(1) Hindus,
(2) Muslims, and
(3) other communities?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether—

(*i*) there are any duty or other allowances attached to these posts in each side of the High Court; and

(*ii*) if so, in how many cases such allowances are enjoyed by the—

(1) Hindus,
(2) Muslims, and
(3) others?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): By the courtesy of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice I am able to reply as follows:—

	Original Side.	Appellate Side.
(*a*) (*i*) ...	19	12
(*ii*)—		
(1) ...	16	10
(2) ...	2	2
(3) ...	1	Nil
(*b*) (*i*)	Nil	Nil

(*ii*) Does not arise.

Mr. ABUL HOSAIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these appointments are made by direct recruitment or promotion or by both?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: These appointments are made by the Hon'ble High Court; so I cannot say.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: With reference to reply (*a*) (*ii*) (2), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these four Muhammadans are officiating or permanent?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I want notice.

Alleged supply of kerosene by Vice-President of Senhati Union Board.

***202. Mr. J. N. GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Vice-President of the Union Board, Senhati, in the district of Khulna, was a member of the Food Committee set up in the village during the last "food drive" of Government?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a large quantity of rice and paddy was found in his house on subsequent dates after the "food drive"?

(*c*) Is it a fact that he is authorised by the District Supply Officer to distribute kerosene oil to traders according to his choice?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) No.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there was any search made for finding out any surplus foodstuff in the village of Senhati?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. That is too vague a question.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: I submit, Sir, it arises in reference to reply (*b*).

Mr. SPEAKER: It is in reference to the house of the Vice-President of the Senhati Union Board, but you are now putting a general question as to whether there has been any search in any house.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the house of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Sinha was searched and if any surplus stock was found in his house?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not in the main question; so it does not arise.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Mr. Dhirendra Nath Sinha is the Vice-President of the Senhati Union Board?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: Yes, Sir.

Supply of kerosene oil, atta, sugar at Senhati, Khulna.

*203. **Mr. J. N. GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of shops in the village of Senhati in the district of Khulna that were allowed permits to sell *atta*, sugar and kerosene oil in the year 1943;

(*b*) the names of such shops;

(*c*) the quantity of each kind of commodities supplied to those shops monthly;

(*d*) whether distribution of the kerosene oil tins to shopkeepers are under the direction of Union Board President of the village; and

(*e*) whether it is a fact that a few individuals of the village are getting kerosene oil in tins through the Supply Office, Khulna?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) One shop.

(*b*) The Senhati Stores.

(*c*) On an average per month:—

Kerosene—27 tins.

Sugar—2 maunds.

Atta—1 maund.

(*d*) The President, Union Board, with the assistance of the other members of the Board exercises supervision with a view to ensuring equitable distribution on the basis of population.

(*e*) No.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the 27 tins of kerosene oil that were supplied to the Senhati Stores were

distributed by the stores itself or they were distributed according to the order of the President, Union Board?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: It was distributed according to the orders of the committee.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the President of the Union Board has got any connection with the Senhati Stores?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: I want notice.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Repair of Midnapore Collegiate School buildings.

97. Mr. KRISHNA PRASAD MANDAL: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware of the fact that the buildings of the Midnapore Collegiate School are Government property by virtue of a Deed of Transfer executed on the 20th August, 1924, by the Midnapore Municipality in favour of the Secretary of State for India?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government have taken up the repair work of the buildings?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of enlisting the building for the purpose of repair?

MINISTER in charge of COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prosanna Pain): (*a*) The legal aspect of the matter as to whether by virtue of the Deed of Transfer of 1924 the responsibility for repairing the buildings of the school rests with Government or with the Managing Committee is now under examination.

The reply to the question will depend on the results of the investigations.

(*b*) In view of the reply to (*a*) the question does not arise.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the matter was referred for legal opinion?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: After the receipt of notice of the question.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the size of the actual deed of transfer? Is it so big that the matter cannot be considered and opinion given?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Unpaid apprentices in the office of Administrator-General and Official Trustee.

98. Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI: (*a*) With reference to the reply given to clause (*e*) (*ii*) of the starred question No. 361 on the 30th September, 1937, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the period of service rendered by the last batch of unpaid apprentices (now confirmed) recruited in the office

of the Administrator-General and Official Trustee of Bengal in the years 1933 to 1937 has not yet been counted towards increment of pay?

(b) Is it a fact that the practice of employing unpaid apprentices in that office was of long standing and continued with the approbation of Government till 1940?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the periods of service rendered as unpaid apprentices by the assistants other than those of the last batch were counted towards their increment of pay?

(d) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why the same treatment has not been accorded to the assistants of the last batch?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: (a) The question of granting increment to these unpaid apprentices, since absorbed in the permanent establishment of the Office of the Administrator-General and Official Trustee, Bengal, was given careful consideration but could not be allowed as being not admissible under the rules.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes; as allowed under the rules then in force.

(d) As stated against (a) above. The reply given in 1937 cannot be construed to exempt any one from the operation of the rule brought subsequently in force but previous to their confirmation.

Closing of the southern road to the Legislative Building.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, before you proceed to deal with the business of the House may I draw your attention to the fact that the southern road, the road which approaches the Assembly House by the southern gate, has been closed and military pickets have been posted there and the members have been obstructed from coming to the Assembly by that gate.

Mr. SPEAKER: I thought you knew it from your Leader. This matter was discussed with the Leaders. The military authorities approached this department and thereafter I sent for the Leaders and I informed them.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: If it is with your authority I have nothing to say.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not a question of my authority at all. You know the limitations of the powers of this House as well as of this Government.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Is it permanent or temporary?

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot say. I thought this matter would not come up before this House and I think it will be desirable in our own interest not to discuss it further.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: If you feel that limitations have been imposed upon your authority we are at your service to deal with the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am very glad to know that, but when I say "we" I do not mean myself; I mean the House.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: May I suggest that when we have got to come round the other way, could a quarter gallon be added to our petrol ration?

Mr. SPEAKER: There again we are helpless.

Srijut MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA: Would you kindly see that the eastern gate is opened?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am thinking of that.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

54—Famine.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Bengal, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 2,61,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "54—Famine".

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA RAY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,61,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the policy of Government, regarding the relief operations in Bengal.

মিষ্টার স্পীকার, স্যার! বাংলা সরকারের বাংলার দুর্ভিক্ষ দমনকল্পে ব্যয়বরাদ্দের নীতি সংক্রান্ত আমার আলোচ্য প্রস্তাব সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলবার প্রারম্ভে আমি আপনার নিকট সনির্ব্বন্ধ অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছি যেন আপনার সময় বাজেটের খয়রাতী খাতে আমার বলার সময়ের একান্ত দুর্ভিক্ষ না হয়।

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়! বাংলায় দুর্ভিক্ষ দূর করবার সরকারী প্রচেষ্টার প্রথমেই আমরা দেখ্‌তে পাই যে দুর্ভিক্ষ দূর করবার জন্য ২ কোটি ৬১ লক্ষ টাকার মাঝখানে সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীদের চলাফেরা, উঠা বসা এবং তাঁদের বেতন বাবদে ১ কোটি ১১ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয়িত হবে। এক কোটি টাকার খাদ্যশস্য দেবার জন্য এক কোটি ১১ লক্ষ টাকা যেখানে তহুরী মহুরী লাগবে তার উপর টাকা টাঙ্গানী করা নিষ্প্রয়োজন বা সময়ের অপব্যয়। সভাপতি মহোদয়! মাসাধিক ধ'রে পরিষদ সাগরে ভোট তুফানের উত্তাল তরঙ্গের ঘাত-প্রতিঘাতে ভাঙ্গাগড়া ওঠাপড়ার ছোট বড় তাল সাম্‌লাতে সাম্‌লাতে বাংলার মন্ত্রী-মাল্লার দল তাঁদের বাজেট তরীটীকে প্রায় কূলে ভিড়িয়েছেন। অন্তর তাঁদের আত্মপ্রসাদে ভরে ওঠা, মুখে মেম্বর-বিমোহন হাসি অভিনব ভঙ্গিমায় প্রকাশ পাওয়া অত্যন্ত স্বাভাবিক। Extraordinary Chargesএর আবর্ত্তসঙ্কুল বিরাট কালিদহের চোরাটানেও যখন তাঁদের বাজেট তরী বান্‌চাল হয় নি তখন দুর্ভিক্ষের ঘূর্ণিপাকের দুর্ব্বিপাক অতি তুচ্ছ, অতি নগণ্য। এবং যে তাঁদের বাজেট তরী ধায়েল হবে না তা জেনে তাঁরা নিশ্চিন্ত আছেন। যতক্ষণ পর্য্যন্ত মন্ত্রী-মৌবনের অফুরন্ত মধু-ভাণ্ডের মুখ উন্মুক্ত থাক্‌বে ততক্ষণ পর্য্যন্ত মধু-আশী মেম্বর মধুপপুঞ্জের কুজন গুঞ্জনে তাদের মন্ত্রী-কুঞ্জটী সকল সময় সরগরম থাকবে, সকল সময় মুখর থাকবে। অভিসারী ভোমরার দল, তাদের অভিসার পথের শতেক বাধার বেদন ব্যথা ভুলে গিয়ে বারে বারে গুণগুণিয়ে কাণের কাছে কয়ে যাবে "কত আর কাটাব দিন দিন গুনিয়ে—বেলা কি যাবে বৃথাই গানের সুরের জাল বুনিয়ে।" কথায় বলে ইতিহাসের পুনরাবর্ত্তন ঘটে। রোম যখন পুড়ে ছাই হচ্ছিল নীরো তখন তার বেহালা নিয়ে সুর সাধনায় মশ্‌গুল্। বাংলার ভাগ্যে আজ সেই ঘটনা বা দুর্ঘটনাই দেখা দিয়েছে। এদিকে মুমূর্ষু বাঙালীর, বুভুক্ষু বাঙালীর, মরণমগ্ন বাঙালার, মহামারী জর্জ্জরিত বাঙালীর যখন শেষ নাভিশ্বাস উঠেছে, তখন মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী তাঁদের দলবল নিয়ে সেই মুমূর্ষু বাঙালীর করুণ কাতর কণ্ঠের ক্ষীণ আর্ত্তস্বরকে দাবিয়ে দিয়ে তাঁদের ভোট ভেরীর দম্ভভি নাদে বাংলার আকাশ বাতাসকে মুখরিত,

সন্ত্রস্ত কোরে তুলছেন। এ যেন মহাশ্মশানে মৃত কবন্ধের প্রাচুর্য্য দেখে পিশাচের বিকট অট্টহাস্য, এ যেন মাংসলোলুপ শকুনি গৃধিনীর উৎকট অস্বাভাবিক উল্লাস! ভোটের জোরে মন্ত্রিত্ব টিকতে পারে, ভোটের জোরে বাজেট পাশ হ'তে পারে কিন্তু ভোটের জোরে কোন দিন মানুষ বাঁচে না। তার প্রমাণ গত বৎসরের দুর্দ্দিনে অনাহারে অগণিত মানুষের অকালে অপমৃত্যু। এই বিরাট লোকক্ষয়ের জন্য হয়ত মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় যুদ্ধ এবং তজ্জনিত যানবাহনের অভাবকে খাড়া কোরে তাঁদের দায়িত্ব এড়াবার চেষ্টা করবেন, কিন্তু মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করব যেখানে যুদ্ধ বা যুদ্ধজনিত যানবাহনের অভাবের প্রশ্ন বা কোন কথাই উঠতে পারে না সেখানে সরকারের হেফাজতে তাঁদের মুঠোর মধ্যে প্রচুর খাদ্যশস্য মজুত থাকা সত্ত্বেও যদি অনাহারে দিনের পর দিন কাতারে কাতারে লোক ম'রে থাকে তার জন্য দায়ী কি যুদ্ধ, না যুদ্ধজনিত যানবাহনের অভাব, না দায়ী সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীর গাফিলতী? বাঁকুড়া জেলায় সরকারী ভাণ্ডারে প্রচুর খাদ্যশস্য মজুত থাকে, তার অভাব ছিল না; কিন্তু সেই দুর্দ্দিনে এই প্রচুর খাদ্যশস্য মজুত থাকা সত্ত্বেও বাঁকুড়ায় কত হাজার লোক অনাহারে ম'রেছে তার হিসাব বোধ হয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের দপ্তরখানায় এসে থাকতে পারে। বাঁকুড়া জেলার এক গ্রাম থেকে আর এক গ্রামে, এক সহর থেকে আর এক সহরে, খাদ্য সম্ভার চালু করবার জন্য যানবাহনের অভাব ছিল না, কুলীমজুরের অভাবের প্রশ্ন ছিল না। বাঁকুড়ায় কেন? এই গঙ্গার ওধারে Botanical Gardenএ সরকারী গোলায় চাল যখন হাজার হাজার মণ প'চে নষ্ট হ'চ্ছে, তখন কি এই কলিকাতা মহানগরীর বুকের উপর লক্ষাধিক ক্ষুধায় কাতর নরনারীর ক্ষুন্নিবৃত্তির পথে বাধা হয়েছিল যুদ্ধজনিত যানবাহনের অভাবে, না মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের পৃষ্ঠপোষিত বাংলা সরকারের দুলালের দল—সেই সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীদের অক্ষমতা, অযোগ্যতা, অমানুষিকতা ও অনভিজ্ঞতা? এ কথার জবাব দেওয়ার প্রয়োজন হবে।

Mr. SPEAKER : আপনার সময় হয়ে গেছে, আর কি বলবেন?

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY : আমি পূর্ব্বেই বলেছি আমাকে আর একটু সময় দেবেন। দুর্ভিক্ষ যে কোন সময়ে একটা সমাজের কি ভীষণ ওলটপালট কোরে দিয়ে যায় তার অভিজ্ঞতা তাদেরই আছে যারা সমাজের সেই দুর্দ্দিনে সেবা-ব্রত নিয়ে দুর্গত এবং দুঃস্থদের সহায়তায় এগিয়ে যায়। দুর্ভিক্ষ এমন জিনিস যে সে গৃহস্থের সমাজ তথা অর্থনৈতিক জীবনকে শতধা বিচ্ছিন্ন কোরে দেয়। গত দুর্ভিক্ষও বাংলার কোটি কোটি নরনারীকে এই রকম শতধা বিচ্ছিন্ন কোরে দিয়েছে। কোটি কোটি নরনারীকে গৃহছাড়া সর্ব্বহারা কোরেছে। আজ আমাদের সম্মুখে সমস্যা হ'ল এই সকল নিরন্নের অন্নের ব্যবস্থা করা, এই সকল নিরাশ্রয়ের আশ্রয়ের ব্যবস্থা করা, এই সকল রোগীর চিকিৎসার ব্যবস্থা করা। আমি সরকারকে বলব যদি তাঁরা মনে ক'রে থাকেন যে এই নিরন্নের অন্ন-ব্যবস্থা, আশ্রয়হীনের আশ্রয়-ব্যবস্থা, রোগীর চিকিৎসা-ব্যবস্থা তাঁদের এহেন প্রাণহীন বে-দরদী চাকরীসর্ব্বস্ব সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীর দ্বারা হয়ে যাবে এবং তাঁদের উপর বাংলার পুনর্গঠন নির্ভর করে তবে আমি বলব যে তাঁদের দক্ষতার দৌড় সম্বন্ধে যদি আজও তাঁরা অবহিত না হয়ে থাকেন তবে বাংলার বর্ত্তমান এবং অবস্তন চোদ্দ পুরুষকে ঋণগ্রস্ত কোরে কোটি কোটি টাকার অপব্যয় দ্বারা বাংলার বুকে আর নূতন কোরে মহামারীর সৃষ্টি করবেন না।

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,61,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government which aggravated famine and dismal failure to cope with it.

সভাপতি মহোদয়। গত বৎসর বাংলার উপর দিয়ে যে বিরাট মন্বন্তর চলে গিয়েছে তার বর্ণনা দেওয়া অনাবশ্যক। অবশ্য পার্লামেণ্টে আমেরি সাহেব ঘোষণা করেছেন যে, ৬ লক্ষ ৮০ হাজার লোক মাত্র দুর্ভিক্ষের করাল কাল-কবলে পতিত হয়েছে। অবশ্য তিনি এই সংখ্যা কোথা থেকে পেয়েছেন তা তিনিই জানেন আর বাংলা সরকার জানেন। আমরা জানি যে আজ বাংলার চারিদিকে যে প্রকার মৃত্যুর তাণ্ডব নৃত্য চলেছে তাতে অন্যূন ৩০।৪০ লক্ষ লোক যমের দুয়ারে যেতে বাধ্য হয়েছে। আর সেখানে আমেরি সাহেব বলেন মাত্র ৬ লক্ষ ৮০ হাজার। অবশ্য এর বেশী যে মরেছে তাতে হয়ত তাঁরা বল্‌বেন যে তোমরা প্রমাণ দাও নাম ধাম দিয়ে। আমরা জানি যে মহারাজ কৃষ্ণচন্দ্রের একজন সভাসদ্ ছিলেন, তাঁর নাম ছিল গোপাল ভাঁড়। তাঁকে জিজ্ঞাসা করা হয়েছিল যে পৃথিবীর কেন্দ্র কোথায়। গোপাল ভাঁড় অনেক গবেষণা কোরে মহারাজের সম্মুখে একটি খুঁটি পুঁতে বল্‌লে যে এই জায়গায় পৃথিবীর কেন্দ্র। যখন সকলে প্রশ্ন করলে যে এই জায়গায় যে কেন্দ্র তা তুমি কেমন কোরে জান্‌লে? তখন সে বল্‌লে তোমরা প্রমাণ দাও যে এটা কেন্দ্র নয়। আমাদের বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট সেই গোপাল ভাঁড়ের অনুকরণে বল্‌বেন, তোমরা প্রমাণ দাও যে ৬ লক্ষ ৮০ হাজার মরে নি, মরেছে ৪০ লক্ষ। তাঁদের কাছে প্রমাণ চাইতে গেলে তাঁরা বল্‌বেন তোমরা প্রমাণ দাও, আমরা ত সংখ্যা বলে দিয়েছি। যাঁরা এমনিভাবে দুর্ভিক্ষে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোকের মৃত্যু-কাহিনী পর্য্যন্ত চেপে দিয়ে, নিজেদের অস্তিত্ব বজায় রাখ্‌তে উৎসাহশীল তাঁদের সম্বন্ধে এই দুর্ভিক্ষের দায়িত্বের কথা বলা একেবারে অনাবশ্যক বল্‌লে অত্যুক্তি হয় না। অবশ্য আমরা জানি যে এই মন্ত্রীসভার এই দুর্ভিক্ষ সম্বন্ধে কোন কিছু করার ক্ষমতা নাই। গভর্ণমেণ্ট যেভাবে চালিত করবেন তাঁদের সেইভাবে চল্‌তে হবে। কাজেই এই মন্ত্রীসভাকে দোষী কোরে তাকে সম্মানিত ক'রতে চাই না। আমি জানি গতবারের পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী যখন সেই SIR JOHN HERBERTএর দুর্নীতিমূলক কার্য্যের প্রতিবাদ করতে দাঁড়িয়েছিলেন যার জন্য এই বাংলায় দুর্ভিক্ষের সৃষ্টি হয়েছে এবং তাঁরা বলেছিলেন আমরা দায়িত্ব নিতে পারব না যদি না আমরা কর্ত্তৃত্ব পাই তখন সেই কর্ত্তৃত্ব চাওয়ার জন্য তাঁদের যে গতি হয়েছে, যার ফলে আজ এই নূতন মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর পত্তন হয়েছে, আমরা ঠিক জানি যদি বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী নিজের হাতে কর্ত্তৃত্ব নিতে চায় তাদের দশাও তাই হবে। কাজেই এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর যতই অযোগ্যতা থাক্ না কেন এর কোন কর্ত্তৃত্ব নাই; সে সামান্য যন্ত্র মাত্র। তাকে দোষী কোরে তাকে সম্মানিত ক'র্‌তে আমি চাই না। তবে একটা কথা হচ্ছে যে সেই হক্ মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীকে অপসারিত কোরে এই বর্ত্তমান অতিশয় ন্যায়নিষ্ঠ স্বজাতিপরায়ণ মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী যার সম্বন্ধে বরদাপ্রসন্ন পাইন মহাশয়ের ভাষায় বল্‌তে হয় যে আমি যেখানে আছি সেখানে বাংলার লোকের সকলের ন্যায়নিষ্ঠা, চরিত্র এবং আদর্শ সম্বন্ধে অভ্রান্ত ধারণা আছে। অবশ্য একথা অতি সত্য যে বাংলার মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর বরদাপ্রসন্ন পাইন, তুলসীচরণ গোস্বামী এবং সুরাবর্দ্দী সাহেবের সততা, চরিত্র এবং নীতি সম্বন্ধে বাংলার কারও দ্বিমত বা সন্দেহ আছে অতি পাপিষ্ঠও একথা বল্‌বে না। যেমন কোন শ্রেণীর নারী বিশেষের সতীত্ব সম্বন্ধে দ্বিমত নাই সেই রকম এঁদেরও সততা সম্বন্ধে কারও দ্বিমত থাকতে পারে না। যখন এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীকে বসান হ'ল পূর্ব্ব মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর স্থানে তখন প্রথমেই সুরাবর্দ্দী সাহেব ঘোষণা কর্‌লেন যে বাংলায় চাউলের অভাব নাই; প্রচুর চাউল আছে; পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী যে বলেছেন চাউলের অভাব, সেই দোষেই তাঁরা দোষী; সেই অভাবের কথা বলায় দেশে আপনা আপনি অভাবের সৃষ্টি হ'ল। আজ যদি আমরা বলি প্রচুর চাউল আছে তাহ'লে সঙ্গে সঙ্গে সমস্ত অভাব ঘুচে যাবে। যেমন সাপের ওঝা যদি তীব্র স্বরে বলে 'বিষ নাই, বিষ নাই,' তাহ'লে যেমন বিষ চলে যায় ঠিক তেম্‌নি-ভাবে এই বাংলার ওঝাস্বরূপ মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী যখন ঘোষণা করলেন যে বাংলায় চাউলের অভাব নাই তখন তাঁরা মনে করেছিলেন যে অভাব নাই বোলে বাংলার দুর্ভিক্ষকে তাঁরা নিবারণ কর্‌তে

পারবেন। এই প্রকার মিথ্যা ধৃষ্টতাপূর্ণ উক্তি বাংলাদেশে দুর্ভিক্ষকে ঘনিয়ে এনেছে। তাঁরা তখন যদি পূর্ববর্ত্তী মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর মতন দৃঢ়তার সঙ্গে বল্‌তে পারতেন যে বাংলায় চাউলের অভাব আছে তাহ'লে অগোণে বাংলার বাহিরের অন্য প্রদেশ থেকে বহু পরিমাণ চাউল এবং বহু লোকের সহানুভূতি এসে পড়লে বাংলায় এই দুর্ভিক্ষের তাণ্ডবলীলার অভিনয় আমাদের দেখতে হ'ত না।

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: Sir, may I move the motion standing in the name of Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,61,00,000 under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government in not declaring famine and not making proper arrangement of foodgrains to save starving people from deaths.

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, আমাদের কৃষক-প্রজা দলের মেম্বর গিয়াসুদ্দিন সাহেবের নামে যে ছাটাই প্রস্তাবটা লিষ্টভুক্ত আছে আমি সেটা "মুভ্" করিতেছি। প্রস্তাবটার মর্ম্ম হচ্ছে—বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রী-সভা অর্থাৎ বাংলা সরকার গত দুর্ভিক্ষকে দুর্ভিক্ষ বলিয়া ঘোষণা না করার জন্য এবং উপযুক্ত খাদ্য জিনিষ সরবরাহ না করার জন্য এবং খাদ্যের প্রয়োজনীয় বিতরণের ব্যবস্থা না করার জন্য যে বাংলায় লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক মারা গিয়েছে সেটা এই গভর্ণমেণ্টের অকর্ম্মণ্যতার দরুণই হইয়াছে। সেই জন্য আমি এই ছাটাই প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করছি।

মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, আজ বাংলার কেন, সমস্ত ভারতবর্ষের কেন, সমস্ত পৃথিবীর লোক জানে যে বাংলার বর্ত্তমান অকর্ম্মণ্য মন্ত্রী-সভা সজোরে ঘোষণা করেছিল যে বাংলায় খাদ্যের কোন অভাব নাই। তাঁরা তখন বলেছিলেন, "দুর্ভিক্ষ হয় নাই"—যখন আমরা দুর্ভিক্ষ ঘোষণা করার জন্য দাবী করেছিলাম। কিন্তু আজকে দেখা যাচ্ছে যে তাঁদের ওকথা সম্পূর্ণ অলীক ছিল। তার জাজ্‌জ্বল্যমান প্রমাণস্বরূপ হাইকোর্টের প্রধান-বিচারপতি এবং সহযোগী বিচারপতি মিঃ লজ্ যে দুটি রায় দিয়েছেন তাতে পরিষ্কারভাবে প্রমাণিত হয়েছে যে বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রী-সভা আসামীদের, অপরাধীদের মুক্ত করার যে দুটী নোটিশ জারি, ইস্তাহার জারি করেছেন,—একটা ১০ই জানুয়ারী তারিখে, আর একটা ৭ই ফেব্রুয়ারী তারিখে,—সেই ইস্তাহারে তাঁরা বলেছেন এই কথা,—"যারা গত ছয় মাসের মধ্যে পেটের দায়ে অপরাধ করেছে এবং বিচারাধীন আছে তাদের প্রতি দয়া-দাক্ষিণ্য কোরে তাদের মুক্তি দিতে এই ইস্তাহারগুলির মূল উদ্দেশ্য ছিল,—এই কথা হাই-কোর্টের প্রধান-বিচারপতি এবং বিচারপতি মিঃ লজ্ সিদ্ধান্ত করেছেন। এর সঙ্গে একথাও ছিলো—"জেলখানায় ভিড় কমাবার জন্যে এই ব্যবস্থা করা হোক।" এর দ্বারা পরিষ্কার বোঝা যায় যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট বাইরে জনসাধারণকে খাদ্য দিতে অক্ষম ত হয়েছিলই কিন্তু জেল-খানার ভিতরে কয়েদীদের সামান্য সামান্য খাদ্য দিয়ে যে বাঁচানো সে সম্বন্ধেও অপারগ হয়েছিল এবং সেইজন্যই জেলখানার ভিড় কমাতে চেয়েছিল। কাজেই দেখা যাচ্ছে—এই গভর্ণমেণ্টের কার্য্যের দ্বারা এইটা প্রমাণিত হচ্ছে যে এই গভর্ণমেণ্ট, যে যে কোন রকম অন্যায় করেছে, সেই অন্যায়কারীদের সাহায্য করছেন, দয়াদাক্ষিণ্য দেখাচ্ছেন। এই কথা দ্বারা এই দৃষ্টান্ত আসে—যখন দেশের জনসাধারণ অন্যায় পথে ধাবিত হবে, বাংলায় যত আসামী, যত অপরাধী, যত দোষী লোক আছে, তাদের রেহাই দিয়ে ছেড়ে দেবার জন্য তাঁরা ব'সে আছেন। এবং এইভাবের দয়াদাক্ষিণ্যের ফলে লোকে যদি অন্যায় কার্য্যের দিকে অগ্রসর হতে থাকে তাহলে দেশে একটা বিশৃঙ্খলার, একটা অরাজকতার সৃষ্টি হবে। এইরূপ বিশৃঙ্খলা সৃষ্টির দ্বারা,—আমার বিশ্বাস

হয়, বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রী-সভার গোপনে জার্ম্মাণীর ও জাপানের সঙ্গে ষড়যন্ত্র আছে। সেই জন্যই এই দেশে বিশৃঙ্খলার সৃষ্টি করে তার সুযোগে বাংলায় পূর্ব্ব দিক থেকে জাপানকে বাংলায় প্রবেশ করবার তাঁরা আহ্বান করেছেন। (Laughter).

Mr. SPEAKER : Famineএর কথা বলুন।

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED : আমরা সর্ব্বদাই দেখ্‌ছি—এই মন্ত্রী-সভা চলছেন কিভাবে। তাঁদের মন্ত্রিত্বকে টিকিয়ে রাখ্‌বার জন্য যত দাগীকে, যত আসামীকে তাঁদের দলে টেনে নিচ্ছেন। এসব করার একমাত্র উদ্দেশ্যই হলো—তাঁদের মন্ত্রিত্বকে কায়েম রাখ্‌বার জন্য প্রাণপণ চেষ্টা।

Mr. SPEAKER : ওসব না বলে famineএর কথা বলুন।

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED : Famineএর কথাই বলছি, Sir. দুর্ভিক্ষের আসল কারণই হচ্ছে তাঁরা যেভাবে কাজ করছেন সেইটা। এবং যদি তাঁরা সেইভাবেই কার্য্য করতে থাকেন, দুর্ভিক্ষ সাম্‌নে আরো বাড়বে।

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,61,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion to raise a discussion about Government's inability and unwillingness to co-operate with non-official persons and bodies in the matter of evolving a broad-based and long range plan for preventing recurrence of distress and famine conditions and in rehabilitating the diseased and the destitute.

Although I would not say that famine caught the Government napping, there is still no denying that while Ministers were drifting from delusion to delusion partly in the midst of wishful thinking and partly in anxiety to consolidate party position which was still volatile in April-May-June last year, non-official forces in the country whose representatives are today branded as the Opposition gave their first reception to the stalking distress in their humble manner. Despite jealous official attempts at concealing truth and understanding realities public opinion voiced itself through the muzzled press and the mutilated platform and Bengal's famine obtained no less than international recognition and the Government of the province had at long last to acknowledge it even though grudgingly.

The result of this bureaucratic dilatoriness on the part of a democratic Government has been obvious. At its early and comparatively preventible stages, distress and its attendants were allowed to have their mounting strides and non-official agencies which were already active in the field were not only not encouraged and nourished by administrative assistance but what is worse the Ministers and the high-lights of their party scented in these useful philanthropic relief organisations a challenge to their own willingness and capacity to do good and a threat to oust them from power.

A healthy Government conscious that its roots are in the faith of the people would not only have followed up the lead given by a section of the people but would have further enlarged their scope and strengthened their efforts by its own propaganda machinery and by material assistance. But the Government of the day in its patent shortsightedness behaved otherwise. It appeared late in the scene, found its own work already taken up by others and in its impotent range and imbecile opportunism began playing the shrewish character of "heads we win, tails you lose".

The numerous gruel kitchens and other relief organisations began functioning in spite of Government apathy and when these became live and real and effective in their own way Government had to advertise existence and avoid endless odium by agreeing to sell some foodgrains at concession rates in some places and that for some days. This is how the Ministry claims to have stood by their constituencies in distress and the blame for all their failures, for the uncountable deaths and immeasurable destitution for the massive emasculation of the labour and the peasants, for the irreparable exhaustion of the intellectual people, for the nakedness of mothers, wives and sisters—the blame for all this is glibly laid at the door of the Opposition, as if people have died in millions out of political motives and for spitting the Government of the day. It is this ungenerous mind of the authorities that has more than anything else contributed to the speedy downfall of the province. Benefactors have been branded as propagandists and friends have been misconstrued as mere politicals.

Members of union boards, of local and district boards, commissioners of municipalities from one end of the country to another—irrespective of community and politics—stood up as one man with the sole desire for saving their land from ruin and the enthusiasm was such that Government could—if only they would—galvanize all these local bodies and their personnel into one vast machinery for reaching the required food, cloth and medicine at the door of every single hungry and diseased man and woman. Famine would have been fought in its base and at least three-fourths of the deaths that have occurred could be avoided and destitution could not expand on the vast scale that it has done. But that was not to be. Our guardians failed to look upon themselves as trustees for the poor and considered themselves merely as persons in power. They stood aside in isolationism born of a totalitarian attitude. They failed to put a little inspiration into the direct and nearest representatives of the people and to clothe them with a little authority for combating emergencies and the morale was allowed to go down. They feared that power would go out at their cost and in their nervousness they grabbed at everything, achieving nothing. The costly department of Civil Supplies came up as a post-mortem organisation more as a coffin for the dead than as a relief for living men. What this department is expected to do today could have been more effectively done eight months ago, if the charges of supply, distribution and rationing were handed over to the net work of self-governing institutions. In my municipality at Berhampore, the municipal Commissioners drew up a completed programme for ration in essential commodities in September last and this was approved by the District Magistrate, but the Divisional Commissioner vetoed it as he could not agree to handing over these powers to non-Government hands. There are today 5,000 maunds of sugar in Government custody in my district but not a chattak is available for there is no machinery working. Conditions in villages are still more appalling.

Will things continue like this? Things can improve even now, if only Government rid itself of its inferiority complex. People must be trusted before Government undertakes any scheme. This will not only increase efficiency and effectiveness—this will add to the prestige of the Govrnment, for it is not in the Dalhousie Square that Government will have to dig its

roots, they must be firmly planted on the soil itself. It must be remembered that the country does not belong to the Ministers and their patrons alone, but primarily to the hewers of wood and drawers of water. These latter must be taken into confidence and all energies must be mobilised for relief and remedial measurs. Thy must be made to feel that the lives of their numerous fellow countrymen are their concern and that they must account for their well-being.

Death, pestilence and starvation do not work on party lines. They are a menace to all and have to be combated by all. Parties may blossom and perish, Ministries will come and go, but this fair and proud province of each patriotic Bengalee must be made to go on for ever.

Maulvi RAMIZUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,61,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about the failure of Government to supply the starving people with food.

I beg further to move that the demand be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to supply the starving people (*i*) with sufficient test or gratuitous relief, and (*ii*) with free distribution of cloth and blankets.

Sir, if I look to the budget statement of the Finance Minister I find that the present Ministry has spent about Rs. 6 crores by way of relief operations and has incurred a loss of about Rs. 5 crores more due to the procurement operations of the Civil Supplies Department for the equitable distribution of the available food supplies at reasonable price levels. If I analyse the operations of the relief works and the distribution of food-grains at mofussil in the distressed areas, you will be convinced that the huge sum of Rs. 10 to 11 crores were simply misspent or abused.

Sir, I represent a constituency in the Tippera district—I mean, Daudkandi and Homna police-stations—which is the most seriously affected area in the whole of Bengal by famine and distress. I do not know what is the official record of the number of deaths in my constituency, but I know that the number will be far less than actual deaths because very few of the chaukidars or dafadars who generally give the death report are alive or able to work due to malaria, small-pox and other diseases.

The western portion of the Tippera district is predominantly a jute area consisting of low lands. The people of this area cannot maintain themselves for more than four or five months with the foodstuff. In an area like this the Government did not supply a single maund of rice or paddy during the last one year, but on the contrary the Government did make a deliberate mischief by their anti-hoarding drive. The anti-hoarding drive created a panic in the minds of the agriculturists with rumours that the rice or paddy in excess of the required amount to be found with any agriculturist will be seized and forfeited to the Government. The few agriculturists who had some excess in their area sold their excess amount immediately. By this act the Government drove away the surplus rice of the 5 to 10 per cent. of the agriculturists from the area but when the acute shortage of rice began in July and continued up to December, Government did not supply that 90 per cent. of the agriculturists of that area with a single maund of rice or paddy. For full six months 90 per cent. of the

population of that area suffered seriously—some had to starve themselves to death and others were half-starved and took rotten things, not all of them due to want of money but due to want of foodstuffs. Thus I find that the present Ministry is the real murderer of these people. At the same time they are doing a great mischief to the future generation by creating a loss or deficit of 5 crores to the Bengal Government due to the so-called and bogus procurement scheme.

Now, Sir, coming to the relief operations I know from my personal knowledge that no grain doles were distributed before December when the harvesting of the *aman* crop had already begun. So far as the free kitchens are concerned, it was the non-official public who began these through public donations and it was in the middle of October that Government began to distribute money to some areas for the cost of free kitchens. But the money was of no avail when no rice or paddy was available in the market even at Rs. 60 or 70 per maund. Only in some areas nominal *khichuris* with rotten things were distributed with which no man can live for more than two weeks. In free kitchen areas I know that not even 10 per cent. have survived, some have died due to loss of vitality and others due to cholera and malaria and dysentery.

So far as test relief works in the district of Tippera are concerned, I know that many dishonest presidents managed to secure test relief money by thousands by unduly influencing the District Engineer and then misappropriated almost the whole amount by showing some false accounts in collusion with the lowpaid work sarkar appointed by the district board by way of patronising. There was actually no supervision or scrutiny.

Sir, in a country where people are dying in thousands and lakhs for want of food, you can easily imagine the condition of the people for want of clothing the price of which is so high now. Most of the poor people are almost naked. The problem of cloth is a most serious problem and the quantity of cloth that has been distributed is nothing but a drop in the ocean.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,61,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this in order to raise a discussion about unsatisfactory formation of relief committees and rejection of co-operation of respectable and responsible non-officials.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the necessity of relief committees and non-official co-operation to meet the famine conditions in the province and to fight the disease prevalent in this province cannot be doubted by any sane person in India. But we find that in this matter also the Government is very slow to implement the promise that they have made from time to time. Sir, in spite of the fact that the Government has seen for itself and even has expressed its appreciation in public meetings regarding the activities of the non-official organisation in the second city of this province, I mean Dacca, where a wholly non-official organisation has successfully, economically and to the satisfaction of the people been making an equitable distribution of

the available foodgrains and also handling relief operations, yet we find that the Government instead of following that example, instead of getting such organisations to function in all the districts and also in the interior is thinking of costly establishments and is depending too much upon the officials to do their duty. The situation is such that you cannot expect people who want to make a living only to tackle the difficult task sufficiently and properly.

Sir, many of us who have never seen officials or gone to Secretariat, having regard to the acute distress prevailing in this province, have gone to the officials to acquaint them about the real situation. We have put forward our suggestions in the hope that they will try to take the hand of co-operation extended to them. But what do we find? Some of us have gone round and appealed to the non-officials to come and co-operate and work in the relief committee. In some cases, retired Government servants, Head Masters of schools and members who have served in the Provincial Service were requested by us and they came up in order to join and become members of the non-official committees. But the circular which has been sent out by the Government says that the presidents of these relief committees in the interior are to be the Jute Registration Officers—young men who serve for a small amount, they are to be the presidents and respectable non-officials are expected to work under them. That shows that the Government will not realise the situation and will not take up the non-official co-operation even in the face of the fact that in the second city of the province the non-official organisation is handling the problem successfully and well and at a very little cost. I, therefore, say that the sooner Government give up their policy of only depending upon the paid staff, inexperienced staff—young people who have no experience of these things, much less any spirit of service in them—the better for the province, otherwise the province will suffer and suffer badly and Government will not be able to solve the difficult situation. I would, therefore, strongly commend this cut motion in order ot emphasise the fact that Government must give up this policy of isolation from the non-officials when co-operation of the non-officials is available to them which ought to be taken up by them.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,61,00,000 for expenditure under the head be reduced by Rs. 100. This is in order to raise a discussion about the increase of establishment charges and the decreased provision for relief.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the speeches of the previous speakers I think I can be brief. Sir, in spite of the self-adulation of the Ministers and the Ministerial party and the admiration felt by their supporters for their great performance in dealing with the famine last year, history will record that in 1943, 7, 17, 27 or 37 lakhs of people died in Bengal through starvation and diseases born of it. So great indeed was the solicitude of the Ministry for the dying millions committed to their charge that they left the deaths to be reported by the village chaukidars and to be recorded under a miscellaneous head. Causing disappearance of evidence of a murder is a criminal offence but doing away with the evidence, or failure to keep record, of the holocaust due to a mismanaged famine is recognised as a political virtue in some quarters.

Yet, it cannot be said, Sir, that there was not a machinery which could be charged with the duty of finding out the dying and dead multitude. In the budget of the current year originally a provision of 2 lakhs of rupees was made for salaries and establishment to cope with the famine itself apart from the vast establishment under the head of Civil Supplies to which the whole Jute Regulation staff worth 15 or 16 lakhs was also tacked on. That original provision of 2 lakhs again was enlarged on revision to a provision of 90 lakhs and 12 thousand for salaries and establishment. Of this huge establishment no part could be directed to take account of the dying and the dead. When such is the case, I would suggest in the first instance that a committee of enquiry should be constituted—a committee of non-officials surely—to ascertain the havoc caused by the famine

Now, Sir, coming to the budget before us we see an establishment worth 1 crore and 11 lakhs is going to be provided for, although we are told by prophets, repeatedly proved to be false, that famine cannot and will not recur in the ensuing year and it is only the malevolent disposition and mischievous inclination of the Opposition that refuse to see the spectre laid. The singular feature of this provision is that it is a lump provision and gives no indication either of the number of officers and men that will be employed or continue to be employed for the purpose nor of the scales of their remuneration or allowances, nor what proportion will be spent for contingencies. A more complete avoidance, nay suppression, of all details is a budgetary feat that might have been witnessed in the days of the Trojan War, but quite unparallelled in recent history. How could the Finance Department be induced to accept such a bald scheme one can only be left to wonder. Of a piece with this bald provision is the lump provision of the trifle of 50 lakhs under sub-head "Miscellaneous." When details of salaries and establishment amounting to 1 crore 11 lakhs cannot be disclosed, it may be unpardonable anxiety for official secret to claim to know the details of 50 lakhs budgeted under sub-head "Miscellaneous" not to speak of a crore estimated for gratuitous relief in a year of bumper crop and of procurement schemes making, as announced, abundant progress. It will probably be said that it is a token of the overflowing generosity of a favoured Government—and a little bird whispers that without such provisions and window-dressing in print neither people can be taken in nor loans will be forthcoming—but, Sir, it requires some explanation how for the administration of a relief provision of 1 crore in the coming year as against a revised provision of 3½ crores in the present, a larger provision, larger by 21 lakhs, for salaries and establishment can be necessary.

Now, Sir, to cover up the appalling bankruptcy of the Bengal Government the budget has been described as an anti-famine budget, post-famine budget, procurement budget, rehabilitation budget and what not. But, Sir, can these descriptions be justified, can any anti-famine, post-famine or rehabilitation measures proceed at all, without taking a census of the landless labour or of the unemployed in the province? If not, the first measure that should be taken in this connection is to collect these statistics. Unemployment dole may be a very ambitious thing for our country and the problem of the destitutes may be left to be solved by passing a Destitute Repatriation Ordinance or Act and leaving the rest to soft police *lathis*, but even when gratuitous relief on a large scale has to be organised, I maintain,

Sir, that the aforesaid census has to be taken as a preliminary measure. The ascertainment of the number of destitutes and distressed cannot be left to such guess as can be made from optional test relief work. That test relief work utterly failed last year even to give an estimate of the appalling situation that was coming is evident from the mismanagement of the famine situation last year. I tabled a question, Sir, enquiring how many District Officers last year informed the Government beforehand of the imminence of the famine as it was their duty to do so under the Famine Code (*vide* section 68) but, Sir, the answer has been withheld for two sessions. A part of the huge expenditure for establishment may well be applied for the collection of the statistics of the unemployed and of the landless labour which, as an anti-famine measure, is absolutely necessary.

The other anti-famine or post-famine measure that appears to be urgently necessary is the extension of the colonization scheme in the Sundarban districts and a survey of certain portions of the cultivable wastes in each of the other districts of the province. In England soon after the war began a large area under permanent grass was surveyed and allotments made for cultivation thereof. Why cannot some such scheme be undertaken as an urgent post-famine work or work of immediate rehabilitation it is difficult to understand.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. RADHANATH DAS: Sir I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 2,61,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about the fact that (*i*) the Government were mainly responsible for the overwhelmingly large number of deaths amongst the Scheduled Caste people due to starvation and utter negligence and carelessness on the part of the Government in properly distributing doles and food amongst the people of the said community; and (*ii*) the question of rehabilitating them.

Sir, the meaning of my cut motion is quite clear and obvious and there is nothing to shroud its significance. The large number of people who were very adversely affected by this famine of 1943 were the depressed class people of Bengal. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you must not take this expression of mine as a partial one, only because I belong to such a community. It was the depressed class people who suffered most and who died in large numbers. I have got innumerable letters from various parts of Bengal stating that the miseries of the depressed class people knew no bounds and their conditions were most deplorable and many homes of depressed class people had been rendered lonely and bereft of human beings their family members having died *in toto* without leaving a single living person. These are the letters, Sir, the synopsis of the contents of which is as follows: I am reading out some of the substances of those letters that I possess with me. If you go through the whole of each and every letter, you, Sir, will be astonished and bewildered to know the utter sufferings and miseries of the depressed class people and to know also as to how they died in large numbers without food, medicine and shelter. You, Sir, also know how in some places the people belonging to the depressed class community had been denied any help

only because they are depressed class people and sometimes because they were not supporters of some particular party. Let me now, Sir, read out some of the letters in their substance.

There is a letter from Jhapardah Union Board, Domjur, Howrah, which runs thus: "About 1,400 Scheduled Caste people including Kaora, Bagdi, Muchi, etc., died of cholera and malaria without any medical treatment. On average, still, there are 5 or 6 deaths daily in each village. Quinine sent to the local Communist party for distribution is denied to those who do not join the said party. Relief sent is extremely inadequate".

There is another report from Mr. Probhas Pal, village Pirpur, Nadia, Calcutta Address: 75A, Ashutosh Mukherjee Road. The report runs thus "Scheduled Castes do not get relief at all": I think this is mainly because they belong to the scheduled caste, and then the report goes on "Many of them died premature death".

I will refer to another letter the substance of which is this. Report from Mr. Kanailal Pal, Assistant Secretary, Hajipore Tarun Sangha, Hajipore, P. O. Damrai, Dacca, says "Scheduled Caste people are terribly suffering. Many of them sold away their movable and immovable properties. No other properties are left for them now to sell Many people have no shed on their house. They have no cloth to put on. Women are worst sufferers. There are some who have left their children and have left no trace of themselves. Quinine is very dear and almost unavailable".

There is one report from Mr. Aswini Kumar Biswas, c/o Mr. Nanigopal Roy Chaudhury, pleader, Nagpara, Noakhali, which runs thus: "Namasudras belonging to No. 2 Char Parbati Union and No. 3 Char Hazari Union under police-station Companyganj district Noakhali, are terribly suffering. Their business of betel has been lost. Many of them have lost their hearths and homes on account of the alluvion of the river Chhota Feni. Many people are dying and many more are on the point of death. Help from Government kitchen and test relief works is inadequate". This reporter could not get adequate information for his people from the president of his union, because he did not belong to the party of the president. The Secretary of the Hindu Mahasabha Mr. Rajendralal Chaudhury refused to give any help and remarked that the leaders of Scheduled Castes had supported the Muslim League and so they would not get any help. (Cries of "shame, shame" from Ministerialist benches.)

Then there is a report from Mr. Sarada Ch. Das, Pleader, President, Kattali Food Committee, Jafarbad, Chittagong, namely, that about 1,000 fishermen have so far died of starvation and sickness. Remaining 1,000 are living in utter distress. Immediate relief is required.

So, Sir, you will find that almost all the letters are of a similar nature, and I do not want to take up the time of the House by reading out the same story in each and every letter. It had come to pass that the distribution of foodstuffs, distribution of doles and also distribution of cooked food through kitchens organised by Government have not been carried out properly, equitably and with good conscience and justice. Though it had been made clear by Government notification that the poorest persons and those who were facing death by starvation were to be dealt with first and not to speak of Government notification but for equity every Government distributor should do that.

As regards the rehabilitation scheme, Sir, I would like to say one thing and then I shall finish my speech. I shall not deal with the past at length but deal with the future. The Government in their proposed scheme for relief and rehabilitation in the year 1944-45 estimate that even in the present circumstances at least 1 per cent. of the population of the province of Bengal will require relief in the shape of free distribution of food besides the real rehabilitation scheme, then 6 lakhs of people require to be fed. If eight annas be taken per head, then about a crore of rupees will be necessary per month, and in a year it will come up to 12 crores of rupees. The budgeted expenditure of 1 crore of rupees is a mere drop in the ocean.

Shoemakers and cobblers require special relief. It appears from the report that no relief has been provided for them. These people should be supplied with implements of their arts and crafts which they sold out for their purchase of food during times of famine.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Sir, I wish to make a few observations on the famine budget. Before doing so I want to point out to Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed, ex-Minister, who stated the other day that had Dr. Mukerjee not come to the help of Muslims there would have been more deaths among them, that the Bengal Relief Committee did not give any relief to the Muslims. (Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Question.) You may question, but I am giving the House facts. (Interruption.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. There should be no interruption.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: In my own subdivision of Kishoreganj, the Subdivisional Relief Committee under the Bengal Relief Committee did not give any help to Muslims and Scheduled Castes. On the committee also there is not a single Muslim or Scheduled Caste member. The people belonging to the Communist party have also been banned. When asked why all these people, Muslims, Scheduled Castes and Communists have been banned, the answer given is that Dr. Mukerjee had instructed that no Muslim should be taken on the relief committee, nor should there be any Scheduled Caste on the committee. My contention is borne out by Mr. Monmohan Das, who is not at the present moment in the House, and also by Mr. Mirza Abdul Hafiz. Mr. Abdul Hamid Shah who hails from Kishoreganj will also support my statement that there is not a single Muslim connected with the Bengal Relief Committee. In the subdivision, relief centres have invariably been opened where the Caste Hindus predominate. Either in the union committees or in the village committees no Muslim has found any place. Though it has been called the "Bengal Relief Fund" the work has been done as if it is a Hindu Mahasabha fund.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: You have done great injustice to Dr. Mookerjee and to the Bengal Relief Committee.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: I give my own personal experience based on facts in my possession.

As present test relief work is given under the Famine Code which is very old. I would ask the Government to revise the list in the Famine Code so that the labourers who are engaged in test relief work may get a fair deal.

I now come to the agricultural labourers, landless labourers who form about 30 per cent. of the population of Bengal. No provision has been made either in the Famine Code or anywhere else for these people. The term labour is understood to mean "industrial labour" but the agricultural labourers who form 30 per cent. of the population, nobody takes any notice of. I would ask the Government that in providing relief for the labourers they must give first consideration to landless labourers. Unless they are encouraged and allowed to live the province is bound to suffer in the end. So far we find that Government have not taken any notice of agricultural labourers.

So far as gratuitous relief is concerned, I think the amount provided in the present year is not sufficient. I would ask the Government to increase the amount in the estimates of 1944-45.

(At this stage the honourable member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Maulvi MD. MOZAMMEL HUQ: মাননীয় সভামুখ্য মহোদয়, মাননীয় রাজস্ব-মন্ত্রী মহোদয় আজ Finance Budget আমাদের মঞ্জুরীর জন্য উত্থাপিত করিয়াছেন—তাহাতে আমাদের বিপক্ষ দলের বন্ধুগণ মন্ত্রিগণকে কেবল গালাগালিই করিয়াছেন এবং বলিয়াছেন, মন্ত্রিগণ দুর্ভিক্ষ নিবারণের জন্য কিছুই করেন নাই। সেজন্য আমি আমার ঐ দলের বন্ধুদের facts and figures দিয়া দেখাইয়া দিতে চাই যে বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী দুর্ভিক্ষ নিবারণের জন্য যথেষ্ট করিয়াছেন এবং এখনও করিতেছেন। বাংলা দেশে ২৬টা জেলা এবং ৯১টা সাবডিভিসন। তার ভিতর ২৯টা সাবডিভিসনের ২১,৬৬৫ স্কোয়ার মাইলের ২ কোটি ৪০ লক্ষ লোক দুর্ভিক্ষ দ্বারা most severely affected হইয়াছে—আর ৭টা সাবডিভিসনের ৭,২৬৪ স্কোয়ার মাইলের ৪৫ লক্ষ লোক badly affected হইয়াছে। (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: আপনাদের ভোলায় কত লোক মারা গেছে?) সেটাও দেখাইতেছি, থামুন না একটু। আর ১৮টা সাবডিভিসনের ১৩,১৯৩ স্কোয়ার মাইলের ১ কোটি ২০ লক্ষ লোক affected to some extent, বাকি ৩৭টা সাবডিভিসনের ৩৫,৭০১ স্কোয়ার মাইলের লোক যাহাদের সংখ্যা হইতেছে ২ কোটি ১০ লক্ষ তাহারা affected by high price only. এইভাবে দেখা যাইতেছে যে famineএর দ্বারা প্রকৃত প্রস্তাবে ৪ কোটি লোক affected হইয়াছে।

এখন ঐ পক্ষের (pointing to the Opposition benches) লোকদের কথা হইতেছে যে, এই সব "অপদার্থ" মন্ত্রীদের তাড়াইয়া দিয়া আমাদের "পদার্থ" মন্ত্রীদের ঐখানে নিয়া (pointing to the Treasury benches). বসাও (Laughter and interruptions). উহারা শুধু হাসিতে আর গোলমাল করিতেই জানে, আপনি Sir, সভামুখ্য, আপনি শুনুন। এই "অপদার্থ মন্ত্রিগণ" ১১ মাস ৬ দিনের মন্ত্রিত্বের ভিতর দুর্ভিক্ষ নিবারণের জন্য কি করিয়াছেন? ১৯৪৩-৪৪ সন পর্য্যন্ত এই ১১ মাস ছয় দিনের শিশু মন্ত্রী (laughter) ৩,৮৩,৪৬,২৫৯৲ টাকা gratuitous reliefএর জন্য খরচ করিয়াছেন। Test reliefএর জন্য খরচ করিয়াছেন ১,২৬,০৭,৩৪৫৲ টাকা; তার উপর Agricultural and other loans এই দেশের দরিদ্র চাষীদের এই শিশু মন্ত্রী (Dr. N. SANYAL: শিশু বড় হবে কবে?) আপনারা গোলমাল না করিয়া শুনুন—ঐ বাবদ চাষীদের তাঁরা দিয়েছেন ১,৯৮,১২,৭৬০৲ টাকা। সুতরাং এই তিনটা headএ আমাদের শিশু মন্ত্রী মোট খরচ করিয়াছেন ৭,০৭,৬৬,৩৬৪৲ টাকা। আরো শুনুন,—famine stricken নিঃস্ব লোকদের তাঁহারা ৫০ লক্ষ টাকার বস্ত্র দান করিয়াছেন। তদুপরি Civil Supply Department এবং Government of Indiaকে food grainএর জন্য তাহাদের দিতে হইয়াছে ১,০৫,০০,০০০৲

টাকা। এখন মোট হিসাবে অঙ্ক কষিয়া দেখা যাইতেছে ৮,৬২,৬৬,৩৬৪৲ টাকা আমাদের এই ১১ মাস ৬ দিনে শিশু মন্ত্রিদল দুর্ভিক্ষ নিবারণের জন্য খরচ করিয়াছেন। (Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: শিশুরা এখন কাঁদছে নাকি?) তাঁহারা কাঁদিবেন কেন, তাঁহারা হাসিতেছেন, কাঁদিতেছেন আপনারাই (laughter); শুনুন, তারপরে তাঁহারা আরও কত কি করিয়াছেন। Medical এবং অন্যান্য relief বাবদ আমাদের মন্ত্রীরা ৬০,০০,০০০৲ টাকার উপর খরচ করিয়াছেন। দুর্ভিক্ষ-পীড়িত নিরন্ন লোকদের জন্য বাংলা দেশে ৬,৬২৫টা free kitchen খুলিয়াছিলেন—তাহাতে দৈনিক ২৫,৩৯,০০০ হাজার লোক খাইয়াছে। এবং ঐ সকল free kitchenএ মোট ১১০,০০০,০০০ নরনারী খাইয়া বাঁচিয়াছে। (Mr. SYED AHMED: Free kitchenএর খানা খাইয়া লোক বাঁচে নাই, মরিয়াছে।) যাহারা বেকার হইয়া গিয়াছে তাহাদের জন্য ২০৪টা work house খোলা হইয়াছে, এতিমখানা খোলা হইয়াছে ৭২টা এবং milk canteen খোলা হইয়াছে ১,৮৫৯টা। এইভাবে লোকদের যত রকমে সম্ভব সাহায্য করা হইয়াছে। (Mr. ABU HOSEIN SARKAR: আপনাদের ভোলায় কি হয়েছে তা তো বলছেন না।) তাঁহারা ভোলাতেও যথেষ্ট দিয়াছেন। ভোলাতে কয়েকবারে ১০ হাজার মণ চাউল পাঠান হইয়াছে। আটা, ময়দা, বাজরা, জোয়ার প্রভৃতি জাহাজ বোঝাই করিয়া পাঠান হইয়াছে। (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: তাহলে দুর্ভিক্ষের ফলে ভোলার লোক সব মোটা হয়েছে!!) (Mr. SYED AHMED: ওসব নির্জলা মিথ্যা।) এ কথার উপর কাহারও কিছু বলার অধিকার নাই। ভোলার লোকের উপর এখানে আমি ভিন্ন অন্য কাহারো কথা বলার অধিকার নাই। (VOICES: নিশ্চয়ই আছে, ভোলা আপনার জমিদারী নয়, etc.)

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI: On a point of information, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of information arises now.

Maulvi MD. MOZAMMEL HUQ: এইভাবে কোটি কোটি টাকা খরচ করিতে কোন গভর্ণমেণ্টকে কি আপনারা দেখিয়াছেন? (Mr. SAMSUDDIN AHMED: কেবল দলের লোকদের পকেট ভর্ত্তী করার জন্য।) (Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: আপনি কত টাকা পেয়েছেন প্রেসের জন্য সেটাও জানতে চাই।) (Noise and interruptions.) Sir, আপনাকে একটা কথা বলি, আপনি আমাদের সভামুখ্য, আপনার কথা আমরা এই Houseএর সকলে শুনিতে বাধ্য। যদি ইঁহারা এইভাবে গোলমাল করিতে থাকেন (A VOICE: গভর্ণমেণ্টের দালাল, আমরা এসব কথা শুনতে চাই না; upon this remark there was much noise and interruptions.)—

Mr. SYED AHMED: এসব মিথ্যা কথা আমরা শুনতে চাই না, Sir.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: এ রকম অনেক কথাই ওঁর মুখ থেকে বেরুবে—যার নাকি জবাব না দিয়ে থাকা যায় না।

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. You (addressing the Opposition members) will have your chance to reply to what he is stating. But if you go on making noise and creating disturbance the business of the House cannot be carried on. I hope you will remain silent while he is speaking. His time is soon going to be up and then you will have every opportunity to meet his points when you will have your chance.

Maulvi MD. MOZAMMEL HUQ: Sir, আপনি ত দেখিতেছেন, কি রকম গোলমাল ও দলের লোকেরা করিতেছে। আপনি উহাদের ব্যবহার এবং সভ্যতা দেখুন। একটি সভ্য বলিতে চাহিতেছে, তাহাকে বলিতে দিতেছে না। (Voices from the Opposition benches: no, we won't hear him, Sir, ওঁকে বসিয়ে দিন, etc.)

Mr. SPEAKER: মৌলভী সাহেব, আপনি to the pointএ বলুন, অবান্তর কিছু বলিবেন না।

Maulvi MD. MOZAMMEL HUQ: Sir, আমাদের ময়মনসিংহের বোকানগরের মহাপণ্ডিত আবদুল ওয়াহেদ বোকানগরী আমার আগে বক্তৃতা দিয়া "অপদার্থ মন্ত্রী", "অপদার্থ মন্ত্রী" বারবার বলিয়া ঠাট্টা করিয়াছেন। আমি তাহার জবাবে দেখাইতে চাহিতেছি যে আমাদের ১১ মাস ৬ দিনের মন্ত্রীরা কি করিয়াছেন। (Maulvi ABDUL WAHED : লক্ষ লক্ষ লোকের মৃত্যু ঘটিয়েছেন, আর কিছু করেন নাই।) শুধু তাহাদের গালাগালি দিলে লাভ কি হবে? তাহাতে আপনাদের মন্ত্রিত্ব লাভ হইবে না। (There was loud noise and interruptions from the Opposition benches.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you please stop making noise like this?

Maulvi MD. MOZAMMEL HUQ: Sir, তাঁহারা যেসব articles বিতরণ করিয়াছেন, তাহার ফিরিস্তি দেখিলেই বুঝিতে পারা যাইবে দুর্ভিক্ষ নিবারণের জন্য আমাদের মন্ত্রিগণ কি প্রকার চেষ্টা করিয়াছেন। ১৫ লক্ষ মণের অধিক food grains তাঁহারা বিতরণ করিয়াছেন। ১৪ লক্ষ pieces কাপড় বাংলার দরিদ্র জনসাধারণকে দান করিয়াছেন। কম্বল ও চাদর দান করিয়াছেন লোকেদের শীত নিবারণের জন্য ৬ লক্ষ pieces, ছেলেদের জামা—children garments এক লক্ষের উপর দান করিয়াছেন, ইহার উপর দুই লক্ষ পাউণ্ডের বেশী দুগ্ধ অর্থাৎ milk powder দেওয়া হইয়াছে। এই যে এত সব দিয়াছেন, এত দেওয়ার শক্তি বিরুদ্ধ দলের কখনও হইত না, ওঁরা (pointing to the Opposition) দিয়াছিলেন কখনো এগুলি? (Mr. A. M. A. ZAMAN : কাদের দিয়েছেন?)

(There was loud noise from the Opposition benches.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. If you go on creating noise in this way the business of the House cannot be carried on. His speech may not be liked by you but it is only desirable that you will give him a chance to speak. I have not been able to follow his speech and I think you also have not been able to do so. How will you then be in a position to reply to his speech? I would request you to kindly have patience to follow his speech with a view at least to give a suitable reply to it if you like.

Maulvi MD. MOZAMMEL HUQ: যেভাবে মন্ত্রীরা কাজ করিয়াছেন বাংলার ইতিহাসে তা কখনো হয় নাই, ভবিষ্যতেও হইবে কি না সন্দেহ (clapping). (At this stage the red light was shown) Sir, আর একটু time দিন। এত অল্প দিনের মধ্যে মন্ত্রীরা যা করিয়াছেন সেদিকে আমাদের বিরুদ্ধ দলের লক্ষ্য নাই; উঁহাদের লক্ষ্য কেবল এই যে কি করিয়া এপারে আসিয়া উঁহারা মন্ত্রিত্ব করিতে পারেন। কিন্তু তাহাতে ভবি ভুলিবে না। বাংলা দেশের লোক বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীদের নিকট হইতে সবকিছু পাইয়াছে—তাহারা চাল পাইয়াছে, দুধ পাইয়াছে, কাপড় পাইয়াছে, কম্বল পাইয়াছে, রোগের ঔষধ পাইয়াছে (Mr. ABU HOSAIN SARKAR : যমের বাড়ী পাইয়াছে।) সুতরাং ওঁদের কথায় তাহারা ভুলিবে না। শুধু "চিল্লাচিল্লি" সার হইবে। আপনাদের যখন কিছু করিবার সাধ্য নাই তখন oppositionএর sakeএ opposition না করিয়া, অনর্থক মন্ত্রীদের গালাগালি না দিয়া মন্ত্রী মহোদয়দের কার্য্যগুলি দেখিয়া বিচার করুন। ওপার হইতে "অপদার্থ মন্ত্রী"-"অপদার্থ মন্ত্রী" বলিয়া চিৎকার করিলে লোকে ভুলিবে না, কেবল আপনাদের কপালে চিল্লা চিল্লিই সার হইবে।

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Mr. Taraknath Mukerjea এই পরিষদে অদ্য Finance budget পেশ করেছেন। Finance budget প্রতি বৎসরই এই পরিষদে উপস্থিত হয়, সেই খাতে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা এই House মঞ্জুরও করেন। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় এই যে সেই টাকাগুলি কি ভাবে খরচ হয় তার বিবরণ দেশের লোক জানে না।

Sir, এই বাংলাদেশের উপর কয়েক বৎসর হইতে বন্যা, প্লাবন, ঝড় ঝঞ্ঝা ও দুর্ভিক্ষ অবিরত বয়ে চলেছে। সম্প্রতি যে ভীষণ দুর্ভিক্ষ ও মহামারী এই হতভাগ্য বাংলাকে গ্রাস করে রেখেছে, বাংলার লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক সহরে, বন্দরে, হাটে, মাঠে, ঘাটে, ষ্টেশনে ও রাস্তায় অন্নাভাবে মরেছে—এখনও মরিতেছে গভর্ণমেণ্টের Famine বিভাগ প্রয়োজন অনুযায়ী কিছুই করে নাই—গভর্ণমেণ্ট এখন সম্পূর্ণ নীরব হইয়া আছেন। বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রী-সভা ও তাহাদের প্রিয় বন্ধু তৎকালীন গভর্ণর মাননীয় Sir John Herbert বাংলার এই ভীষণ অবস্থা গোপন রাখিতে চেষ্টা করিয়া ব্যর্থ হইয়াছেন। দেশের জননায়কগণ বিশ্ববাসীকে দেশের এই চরম অনুকষ্টে বাংলা যে মৃত্যুর পথে তাহা জানাইয়া দিয়াছেন। আমাদের সৌভাগ্য যে মাননীয় Sir Rutherford বাংলায় গভর্ণর হয়ে আসলেন। তিনি বাংলার এই চরম দুর্দ্দিনের বিষয়টী স্বীকার করলেন। ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্ট ও বৃটীশ পার্লামেণ্টকে বাংলা প্রদেশের ভীষণ দুর্ভিক্ষের সংবাদ দিলেন। বৃটীশ পার্লামেণ্টের কতিপয় সহৃদয় সদস্য আন্তরিকতার সহিত পার্লামেণ্টের ভিতর বাংলার এই চরম দুর্দ্দিনের কথা, অনুকষ্টের কথা, অন্নাভাবে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোকের মৃত্যুর বিষয় তুমুলভাবে আলোচনা করেন। বাংলার এই অনুকষ্টের জন্য দায়ী কাহারা—এই বিষয়টীও আলোচনা হয়। বৃটীশ পার্লামেণ্টের সদস্যগণ বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিসভাকেই এই জন্য দায়ী করেছেন।

Sir, মন্ত্রিসভাকে কেন দায়ী করিবেন না? মন্ত্রিসভা নিজ দায়িত্ব ভুলে গেছেন, দালালি কণ্ট্রাক্টারী প্রভৃতি ব্যবসায়ে প্রচুর অর্থ উপার্জন করিতেছেন। সারা বাংলার চাউল সরবরাহের জন্য মন্ত্রিসভার ২।১ জন বিশিষ্ট মন্ত্রির বন্ধু Ispahani Brothers.ক করিয়াছেন Supplier. এক দিকে দুর্ভিক্ষের প্রবল আক্রমণ, অন্যদিকে Supplier Ispahani Brothersএর স্বার্থপরতা ও স্বেচ্ছাচারিতা, তদুপরি মন্ত্রিসভার বিশেষ করিয়া Supply মন্ত্রীর অর্থপিপাসা, তারই পরিণামে লক্ষ লক্ষ বাঙ্গালীর অন্নাভাবে মৃত্যু, দেশ আজ গোরস্থানে পরিণত।

Sir, আমার বন্ধু কবি মোজাম্মেল হক মন্ত্রিদের ঢাক ঢোল পিটিতে পারেন ইহাতে তার নিজের যথেষ্ট সুবিধা হইতে পারে। দেশের কোন উপকার হইবে না। British Parliament, Government of India এবং দেশের জনমত যখন চাপ দিয়েছিল, pressure দিয়েছিল তখন তাঁরা আর নিজের কক্ষে আরামে শুয়ে নিদ্রিত থাকতে পারেন নাই—বাধ্য হয়ে দেশের জনমতের নিকট আত্মসমর্পণ করেছেন।

Sir, আমার বন্ধু মৌলবী মোহাম্মদ ইছরাইল বলেছেন যে Gruel Kitchenএর sufficient বন্দোবস্ত করা হইয়াছিল। আমার বন্ধুকে জিজ্ঞাসা করি, বাংলার ভীষণ অন্ন-বস্ত্র কষ্টে ব্যাথিত হয়ে বাংলার ও ভারতের বহু বেসরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান কোটী কোটী টাকার চাউল ও কাপড় বাংলার ঘরে ঘরে বিতরণ করিয়াছেন। এমন কি আমেরিকা, গ্রেট ব্রিটেন, ও আরবের ছউদী গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রভৃতি বহু রাষ্ট্র বাংলার জন্য সাহায্য পাঠাইয়াছেন। আর বাংলার নাজেম মন্ত্রিসভা এই ইতিহাস প্রসিদ্ধ দুর্ভিক্ষে বাংলার জন্য মাপা Gruel Kitchen বন্দোবস্ত করেছেন। আর এই পরিষদে উহা প্রকাশ করিতে লজ্জা বোধ করিতেছেন না।

Sir, অত্যন্ত দুঃখের বিষয় মন্ত্রিসভার নিকট পুনঃ পুনঃ অনুরোধ সত্ত্বেও Famine ঘোষণা করেন নাই। Famine Codeএতে লেখা আছে যে দেশে যখন দুর্ভিক্ষ উপস্থিত হবে তখন গভর্ণমেণ্টকে সেই দুর্ভিক্ষ পীড়িত অঞ্চলের অধিবাসীদের সমস্ত ভার গ্রহণ করিতে হইবে,

গ্রামে গ্রামে, ইউনিয়নে ইউনিয়নে অন্নসত্র খুলতে হবে, ছেলে মেয়েদের লেখাপড়ার ভার নিতে হবে, রোগীর ঔষধপত্র ও চিকিৎসার ভার নিতে হবে, অস্থায়ীভাবে আদান-প্রদান বন্ধ থাকিবে। কিন্তু Government Famine ঘোষণা না করে কোটী কোটী লোককে দুর্ভিক্ষ ও মহামারির ও ধ্বংসলীলার মধ্যেই প্রতিপালন করেছেন, Gruel Kitchenএর সামান্য লাপ্‌সীর বন্দোবস্ত করেই কর্ত্তব্য পালন করার অহঙ্কার করিতেছেন। মন্ত্রিসভার লাপ্‌সী খেয়েই অনেক লোক শোখ হয়ে মরেছে, এখনও মরিতেছে। ইহা চিকিৎসকদের মত। আবার Gruel Kitchenএর অর্দ্ধেক চাউল, ডাউল ভদ্রবেশধারী চোর ডাকাত বিশেষ করিয়া মন্ত্রিসভার সমর্থক কর্ম্মী যারা রয়েছে, তারাই খেয়েছে (Laughter).

Sir, আমার বন্ধু সৈয়দ আবদুল মজিদ নোয়াখালী জেলার সন্দীপের প্রতিনিধি। নোয়াখালী তথা সন্দীপবাসীর ভীষণ জীবন-মরণ প্রশ্নে আমরা তাঁহাকে নোয়াখালী দেখি নাই। তিনি District Board Electionএ ভোট ক্যানভ্যাস করিতে যাইয়া সরকারী টাকায় অনেক ঘোরাফিরা করেছেন। কি কোরে Chairman হবেন সেই চিন্তায় বিভোর—মরণমুখী দেশবাসীর চিন্তার সময় তাঁহার কোথায়?

Sir, আমার বন্ধু কবি মোজাম্মেল হক, মৌলবী ইছরাইল ও মিঃ মজিদএর কোন উত্তর দিতে চাই না, কেন না পরাধীন দেশের পরাধীন জাতির গোলামি ভাবাপন্ন প্রতিনিধিদের বক্তৃতা হইতে দেশ ও জাতি এর চেয়ে বেশী কিছু আশা করিতে পারে না।

Sir, আজ এই পরিষদে স্বাধীন দেশের সন্তানগণ (pointing to the European Group) বসে রয়েছেন। তাঁদের দেশের যদি একটী লোকও না খেয়ে মরতো মিঃ চার্চিলকে এমন কি His Majestyকে পর্য্যন্ত কৈফিয়ৎ ও পদত্যাগ করতে হত। এই বাংলায় লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক না খেয়ে মরে গেছে, মন্ত্রিসভা অবজ্ঞা, অবহেলা, ও উপহাস করিতেছেন, ইহারা যে জাতি-দ্রোহি দেশদ্রোহি তাহাতে কোন সন্দেহ নাই। আমরা পরিষদের সদস্যগণ যদি position-opposition ইত্যাদি ভুলে গিয়ে এই মরণমুখী দর্ভিক্ষক্লিষ্ট নরনারীর সেবায় অগ্রসর হইতাম তাহা হইলে একটা সুব্যবস্থা হত। আজ নির্ব্বাচকদের এবং যাহারা মরে গেছে তাহাদের পরিত্যক্ত পরিজন ছেলেমেয়েদিগকে স্মরণ করুন, তাহাদের একটা ব্যবস্থার চেষ্টা করুন। তাদের জন্য আমরা কি করেছি? এই কথাটা—(At this stage the member having reached the time limit resumed his seat.)

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Sir, many of my friends in this House have already said about the sufferings of the Scheduled Castes during the last famine. Sir, to speak the truth, the last famine was the famine of the Scheduled Castes, and they were the worst sufferers.

Sir, the Scheduled Castes during the last famine have been rendered homeless and they have sold away all their utensils to keep their body and soul together. If Government had any proper agency to collect death figures, they might have seen that the death rate among those poor Scheduled Castes would have been the highest.

Sir, Government came to the field with relief in various forms for which I congratulate the Government, but, at the same time, I beg to submit that Government themselves had the kindness to admit that in administering relief Scheduled Castes' cases were not properly considered. The other day we received a letter from Government where Government admitted that in the matter of administering relief, the cases of the Scheduled Castes and other minority communities have been neglected in many districts.

Sir, this relief was mainly distributed through some private organisations or through food committees. As to the private organisations, I beg to submit that there was very little representation from the Scheduled Castes in them, and for want of representation, they had little relief in the hands of those organisations.

As to food committees, Sir, I beg to submit that in the same letter Government had the kindness to admit that those food committees were not properly represented by the Scheduled Castes. Due to want of their representation in those food committees, the cases of the Scheduled Castes were neglected. Due to these facts, Scheduled Castes were not getting proper relief from these bodies.

Therefore, my request to Government for the future is that Government should be able to see that the cases of the Scheduled Castes are not neglected and as to the formation of committees I would request Government to see that Scheduled Castes' representatives are included in those committees. In view of the situation I request Government to come forward with special relief for the help of the Scheduled Castes who suffered much during the last famine.

Mr. SYED AHMED KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Famine সম্বন্ধে আলোচনায় আমি শুধু এই বলতে চাই,—গভর্ণমেণ্ট পক্ষ থেকে বলা হয়েছে তাঁরা না কি অনেক কিছু সাহায্য করেছেন। সাহায্য তাঁরা করতে পারেন, কিন্তু সেই সাহায্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট পক্ষীয় মেম্বারদের মারফতে দেবার সময়ে তার খানিকটা তাঁরা খাইয়েছেন District Magistrateদের, খানিকটা, Deputy Magistrateদের, অফিসও কিছুটা খাইয়াছে, তারপরে খাইয়েছে Circle Officerদের ; Union Boardএর members এবং presidentদের খাওয়া দাওয়ার পরে অবশিষ্ট যা কিছু গ্রামে গিয়াছে সেইগুলি দিয়ে খিচুড়ি তৈরী কোরে লোকদের খাইয়েছেন। যদি তাঁদের ঐ ধরণের খিচুড়ি না খাইয়ে চালগুলি এক ছটাক কোরেও দিতেন তাহলেও তারা নিজেদের পছন্দমত পাক কোরে খেতে পারত কিন্তু তাও না দিয়ে বাজরা প্রভৃতির সঙ্গে সামান্য কিছু চাল দিয়ে যা পাক করে খাইয়েছেন তা খেয়ে কলেরা, বসন্ত প্রভৃতি নানা প্রকারের রোগ হয়ে গ্রামের লোক অনেক মরে গেছে। আমার বন্ধু মোজাম্মেল হক সাহেব বলেছেন—"গভর্ণমেণ্ট সাহায্য করেছেন"। সাহায্য করেছেন কাকে? বাংলার লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক মরে গেছে,—তাঁরা সাহায্য করেছেন কাকে? যা কিছু সাহায্য করেছিলেন তাঁদের পক্ষীয় লোকেরা সে সকল খেয়ে শেষ করে ফেলেছে। High Courtএর Chief Justice পর্য্যন্ত তারা যে চুরি করেছে—তার নিন্দা করেছেন। কেউ Industrial Schoolএর টাকা চুরি করেছে, কেউ নাকি সালিসী বোর্ডের টাকা চুরি কোরেছে, আবার কেউ কেউ নাকি famine reliefএর চাল ইত্যাদি চুরি কোরে বাংলার লক্ষ লক্ষ লোককে যমসদনে পাঠিয়েছে। মৌলবী মোজাম্মেল হক বলেছেন—বর্ত্তমান Ministryকে—শিশু Ministry. শিশুদের সচরাচর জ্ঞান থাকে না ; আজ পর্য্যন্ত শিশুদের জ্ঞান না হওয়ায় এই শিশু-মন্ত্রীর দল জাতিকে রক্ষা করতে পারেন না। কারণ তাঁরা এখনো নাবালক। কাজেই শিশু-মন্ত্রী না হয়ে, গভর্ণমেণ্ট উপযুক্ত ভাবে চালাতে পারেন এই রকম উপযুক্ত লোকদের দ্বারা আজ মন্ত্রিত্ব চালিত হওয়া দরকার। নৈলে কাণ্ডজ্ঞানহীন শিশু-মন্ত্রীরা যদি এই মন্ত্রীর গদিতে আরও কিছু দিন থাকে, তবে আর বাকি সমস্ত বাংলাদেশের লক্ষ লক্ষ লোককে মেরে ফেলবে।

কাজেকাজেই আমরা Houseএর কাছে জানাচ্ছি—যারা এদেশের লোকদের এবং তাদের ছেলেপিলেদের খাওয়াপরা দিয়ে বাঁচিয়ে রাখতে সক্ষম এমন লোকদের দ্বারা মন্ত্রিত্ব গঠন করা

হোক। নৈলে বাংলার লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক আবার মরে যাবে। নোয়াখালী জেলায় কয়েক লক্ষ লোক মরেছে। গভর্ণমেণ্টপক্ষের দুই একজন মেম্বারদের যে টাকা বা জিনিষ দিয়েছেন, প্রকৃতপক্ষে সে টাকা বা জিনিষ গ্রামে যায় নাই। যে সব লোকদের খিচুড়ি খাইয়েছেন, তারা সব কলেরা বসন্তে মরেছে। এমন কি এখনো অনেক লোক খেতে পাচ্ছে না ও কলেরা বসন্তে মরে যাচ্ছে। যদি তাঁরা ভাল বন্দোবস্ত না করতে পারেন তাহলে এই শিশু-মন্ত্রীরা গভর্ণমেণ্ট চালাবার দায়িত্ব ছেড়ে দিন, অনভিজ্ঞ মন্ত্রীদের দ্বারা দেশের আরো সর্ব্বনাশ হবে, এই আমার কথা।

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not have intervened in the discussion but for the accusations that have been made by my friend Mr. Israil as to the function of the Bengal Relief Committee. Sir, I want to say that the accusations are absolutely false. The relief committee has made no distinction between communities and communities as regards distribution. My friend Mr. Shahedali who is sitting by his side will corroborate my statement that relief has been distributed in his village. I was one of those workers who distributed relief and I can say this that relief has been given to the people irrespective of the communities—Hindus and Muslims. (Cries of "hear, hear" from the Opposition benches.) The accusations that have been made by Mr. Israil are absolutely false, mischievously false and I must say that he has done great injustice to the committee which is functioning in the matter of the distribution of relief.

As regards distribution of relief to the Scheduled Castes—I do know that the Scheduled Caste people have suffered most in this distress—I can say that they did not get any relief from the Government Central Relief Committee which was functioning under the supervision of Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if evidence is sought of the District Magistrates of Bengal they will corroborate my statement that so far as relief given by the Bengal Relief Committee is concerned, there has been no discrimination between the communities. Distribution has been made irrespective of communities—Hindus and Muslims. Sir, I again repeat that the statement of Mr. Israil is false, mischievously false, so much so that I cannot characterise it in proper language.

With these words, I do condemn the attitude of Mr. Israil. (Applause from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, in my district after my release from the jail I organised the Dinajpur Arta Seba Sangha for the relief of the destitute and it was a branch of the Bengal Relief Committee. It is false to say that no Muhammadans were taken in the committee. I may say that Maulvi Hasan Ali who is the President of the Dinajpur District Muslim League is a member of the committee which I started at Dinajpur. Moulana Abdulah-el Baqui is also in the committee. The President of the Scheduled Caste Association whose name is Pandit Gobinda Chandra Roy is also in the committee. So it will be absolutely false to state that in constituting committees we do not take any Muslims and Scheduled Caste members. I invite my friend Mr. Israil to come to my district and examine whether in distributing relief we made any discrimination between communities and communities. It is absolutely false to say that only the caste

Hindus received the relief. Muslims and Scheduled Caste members were equally treated and all of them got relief.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, আমি বলতে চাই—North Bengal বন্যা থেকে সুরু কোরে, হিন্দুরা জাতিধর্ম্মনির্বিশেষে দেশের সকল বিপন্ন লোককেই সাহায্য কোরে আসছে; আজ বিভিন্ন সাহায্য কেন্দ্রে তদন্ত কোরে দেখলে এ কথা মুসলমান বন্ধুরা কিছুতেই বলতে পারবেন না হিন্দুরা কেবল হিন্দুকেই সাহায্য করেছে, মুসলমানকে সাহায্য করে নাই। আমরা আমাদের সামান্য গ্রামে যে kitchen committee করিয়াছি সেখানে কত মুসলমান এসেছ, কত scheduled castes এসেছে, এই সমস্ত বেশ কোরে দেখে এসে আপনারা ওরূপ বলতে পারলে বলবেন।

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: May I ask my friends Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta and Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu whether they are aware that no such thing has been done. I do not blame the Bengal Relief Committee but I directly and most vehemently say that no such thing was done. I ask Dr. Mookerjee whether it is not a fact that in the district of Rangpur relief was given only to those people who signed the Hindu Mahashaba creed.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: One thing I want to ask Dr. Mookerjee. His pictures are there and his slogans are there আপনি কি হিন্দু ?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

Mr. PUSPAJIT BARMA: I do not want to say many things. What I want to say is that so far as the statement uttered by Mr. Kshetra Nath Singha is concerned, I can only say that the statement uttered by him is entirely false.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, we are not here to discuss the relief operations of the non-official relief committees, but I shall refer to their activities in the course of my speech. We have met here to pass the budget estimates of the Bengal Government and not of the Bengal Relief Committee or of the Bengal Provincial Hindu Mahasabha Relief Fund. (Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Provocation came from your side.) No, it did not. It came from your side. Sir, we are here to discuss today the question of Bengal famine not with reference to what happened in 1943 but to the conditions in 1944. I do not wish to discuss in detail as to who has been responsible for the Bengal famine, except to say this that the part which has been played by the present Ministry has not helped to ease the situation; on the other hand it has aggravated the situation considerably (Cries of "Question" from the Coalition Party Benches). Sir, today is 29th of March. This day last year the resignation of Mr. Fazlul Huq as Chief Minister was obtained by the then Governor. The House will recall that during the Budget discussion of 1943 the then Ministry made it abundantly clear that the situation then in existence was alarming, that there was a serious shortage of foodgrains in this province and that unless some radical steps were taken in the very near future, Bengal may be plunged into disaster. Sir, I do not wish to take the House through the remarks made by Minister after Minister after the assumption of office of the new Ministry in April, 1943, stating that there was no food shortage at all, stating that everything was all right, stating that in the course of a few weeks (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: In the course of a fortnight.)—that was what the Finance Minister said—the prices would fall and that there would be peace and plenty throughout the province.

Now, Sir, the charge which we bring against the Ministry is that if they had not lost valuable time during that period, the situation would not have worsened as it did worsen in the course of 1943. Today, Sir, in 1944 what is the position? There is an exact repetition of the statements similar to what we heard in 1943. I have made here a tabular statement of what was said in 1943 and of what is being said in 1944. There is the same assurance given without the adequate and required data behind such assurance. What is the charge that we bring against the Government? Government did all it could to prevent the news of distress in Bengal spreading throughout the province and outside the province. What part did the non-official organisations play during those critical months? The members of the House, if they analyse the situation dispassionately, will find that it was the non-official organisations which first thought it necessary to start relief operations and only after they had started work, the Government started doing something. So far as call for help was concerned, appeals were issued by non-official bodies and individuals throughout Bengal and outside. Certain appeals and certain statements were tried to be suppressed under the orders of the Defence of India Rules but had not public opinion been aroused throughout India through non-official efforts and through the efforts of some newspapers, specially *The Statesman* which does not occupy a place in the Opposition but which did invaluable service in letting out the truth and making it known throughout India and abroad, the Government of Bengal would never have been brought to its senses. So far as non-official relief organisations, the two main organisations with which I have been connected, viz., The Bengal Relief Committee and The Hindu Mahasabha Relief Fund, are concerned, I can say without any fear of contradiction that there has been no distinction in respect of caste, creed or colour with regard to relief given by them. I have got before me the returns from various local relief organisations and from other places which go to show that we have served man without any distinction of caste, creed or colour. But what about the secret circular issued by the Government to the District Officers that among Moslems none but a Muslim Leaguer is to be appointed as a member of any relief committee? Mind you, Sir, that of these lakhs of rupees which have been raised by non-official organisations, 99 per cent. has been raised by non-Muslims but according to instructions received and according to our own judgment we decided that we should serve man irrespective of any consideration. On the other hand, whose money has the Goevrnment of Bengal handled and mishandled? It is the money of the people of Bengal. It is not the money of the Muslim League Party sitting over there. It is not the money of the Hon'ble Ministers who have administered the funds; yet in every place distinction has been made both with regard to management and distribution. That is however not the main point we are discussing today. The main point is how to prevent famine in 1944. I would say this with all the emphasis at my command that whatever we have said during the last few months is due only to our fear based on reasoned facts that unless things are properly shaped, there may be a recurrence of famine. From one point of view, no question of recurrence arises. Has famine disappeared from Bengal? What was the price of rice before the famine days and what is the price of rice now? On the admission of Government and its supporters you cannot get rice at a price less than Rs. 15 or 16. I ask

you: does that not represent that famine conditions are still prevailing in various parts of the province? But what has the Government done? What the Government has done is to gag public opinion. Government has directed that there will be no criticism of the failure or inefficiency of the Government to be allowed to be published in any newspaper in Bengal. I ask you: is that the way in which the situation in Bengal is going to be tackled? It has been said right from the top to the bottom—every one connected with Government and outside has said—that unless and until you can restore public confidence, the conditions in Bengal can never alter; and how can confidence be restored if the ultimate responsibility for carrying on the food policy is left in the hands of the Ministry which does not admittedly enjoy the confidence of large sections of the people of Bengal. (Cries of "No, no" from the Government Benches). It is no use your shouting "no, no". You know that in your heart of hearts you are a sectional Ministry, that you are a Ministry which commands the confidence of one section of the people and that there are large sections of the people who do not have any respect for your integrity, efficiency or honesty.

Now, Sir, only three days ago, the Associated Press issued this message from Bogra. It is dated 22nd March. It runs thus: "Batches of destitutes are again pouring into the town in a very weak state of health. A body of a destitute was found lying on the Rangpur Road for some hours while another was seen being devoured by vultures and jackals on the Station approach road". (A voice from the Government Benches: "Ah, ah!") Who is the gentleman who said "Ah, ah!". This is an Associated Press message which has not been published except in one paper in Bengal.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: It is false.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Mr. Rasik Lal Biswas whose *rashikatha* knows no limits, says that the statement is false. The Associated Press representative has sent out a false message in order to tickle the vanity of Mr. Rasik Lal Biswas. Now, Sir, I ask the Hon'ble Ministers: can the Hon'ble Minister deny that it was only about 10 or 12 days ago a report was sent by the Superintendent of Police, Bankura, who is not in league with the Opposition, addressed to the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Burdwan Range, disclosing the serious state in Bankura and the anxious times which the officers were having. These are the words: "As regards rice and small coins"—I ask every member to pay close attention to it—"it appears that the situation is going to be a repetition of last year. Prices of rice and paddy are on the increase. Rice and paddy are disappearing from the market. The same is the case with small coins. There has been a continual complaint by the (police) force of extremely rotten supplies of rice coming from Government Stores. I have already brought this to the notice of the District Magistrate but no practical solution has been reached." —Now mark the comment on the administration of the Food Department—"The supply consists of a mixture of four different kinds of rice with a liberal addition of stones and the users are mostly suffering from stomach troubles. I foresee a disabled force if this kind of supply continues". From Bankura you go to Chittagong. What is happening in Chittagong? In Chittagong, Government has arranged for the supply of foodgrains to about 15 per cent. of the people through controlled shops and there also the

prevailing price is about Rs. 16. There are thousands in that area who cannot afford to buy and live by purchasing rice at Rs. 16. But that is only affecting 15 per cent. of the people. Eighty-five per cent. of the people in Chittagong are left to their own fate which means that they cannot get rice at any reasonable price whatsoever, the prevailing price today being between Rs. 22 and Rs. 24 per maund.

Coming away from Chittagong to the *Calcutta Gazette*, take the *Calcutta Gazette* and read it every week. What are the facts which are disclosed here as regards the situation in Bengal, district by district and subdivision by subdivision. Take the figures given up to 8th March and published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of 16th March. Out of 89 districts and subdivisions there are as many as 29 where on the own admission of Government black-market is prevalent or no information is available from the markets in those places. And those districts include Tippera, Chittagong, Dacca and other places. What does it disclose? It discloses that somethings is rotten somewhere. In spite of the bumper crop which we have announced throughout India and throughout the world the people of Bengal are suffering in March to this terrible extent. You can throttle public opinion, you can gag the expression of free criticism but will that save millions of people? Did that save people in 1943? And why has the Government lost the confidence of the people? Leave aside the party label of the Ministry. Take it on its merits. Why do we not trust the Government? Why did not the people trust the Government? The reason is this: take some illustrations. (At this stage there was loud noise from the Coalition benches.) It is no use shouting. Treat yourselves as human beings and be not the gramophone of the so-called leaders of your party.

Now, Sir, take the case of bad food. Mr. Suhrawardy said repeatedly that the bad food, the bad quality of rice which was being supplied was the responsibility of the Central Government. He went on repeating that. I am not quoting him. I won't take the time of the House and quote them in detail. This was repeatedly said and the Government of India protested against it. (Cries of "who protested?", "Who protested?" from the Coalition benches.) Sir J. P. Srivastava protested. (Cries of "Oh!", "Oh!" from the Coalition benches.) You shout "Oh!", "Oh!", because he is a Hindu; but Sir Azizul Huq protested and said it was the responsibility of the Bengal Government. Now who is this Sir Azizul Huq?——

Mr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: He is a gramophone of the Government of India Secretariat there.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Then have the courage to repudiate the Government of India publicly and say that they have falsely replied. Then, Sir, it has been stated that the Orissa Government was responsible for the bad quality of rice: Mr. Suhrawardy getting the rebuff from Delhi ran to Orissa and said that it was the Orissa Government which was responsible. But read the statement issued by the Orissa Government on the 24th March which stated that the allegation was absolutely false and that the responsibility was not of the Orissa Government. Whose responsibility then is it, I want to ask. You have the right to ask, the members of the Government party have a right to ask whose responsibility is it that the quality of rice has deteriorated? The point is that public confidence has shaken

because the Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department says one thing in Calcutta one day throwing the responsibility on the Central Government and something else from another place on another day throwing the responsibility on another provincial Government; and when these are repudiated by the Governments concerned the result is that public confidence is completely shaken.

Take the next point. When we brought forward the charge that thousands of maunds of paddy had been allowed to remain in a state of wastage near Jessore railway station platform, up rose Mr. Suhrawardy there and said, "Oh, what could we do? We could not get the transport facilities." Who gave the reply to this from Delhi? It was Sir Edward Benthal, who is neither a Hindu, nor a Muslim, nor in league with the Opposition members. What was his answer? His answer was, "We gave the Bengal Government transport facilities according to their programme and this Jessore stock was never included in the programme submitted by the Government of Bengal". You are sitting there as dummies and dolls, giving your support to the Ministers because you think that your Muslim League Party will remain alive. It will not remain alive. Whether the Opposition wins or not is a matter of indifference. If you think you can play with the lives of millions of people of this province in this way, you are utterly mistaken.

Now, Sir, what about profiteering? I am quoting these instances only to show why it is that the people have lost confidence in the Government. Why is it so? Look at your profiteering scheme. It was said by the Hon'ble Minister that there was no profiteering at all. Getting wheat from the rest of India at a low price, that wheat was sold at a higher price to the dying people of Bengal enabling the Bengal Government to make a clean profit of 33·44 lakhs of rupees. Mr. Suhrawardy said that that was all over. But read Mr. B. R. Sen's speech in the Council of State on February 21, 1944. On February 21, 1944, Mr. B. R. Sen says that Bengal Government has been going on making profit even during the last few months—a fact which was denied here by the Treasury Benches and Mr. Suhrawardy. Does that help to restore confidence?

The point is, Sir, that we are genuinely anxious that there must not be a recurrence of the distress of 1943 in 1944. That is the point that I want to emphasise upon today, and that cannot be done until confidence is completely restored in the *bona fides* of the Government. I say this, Sir, that a lead has been given in the Central Assembly where the Muslim League has joined hands with other parties for defending the rights of the people. The point is, will the Bengal Muslim League Party have the courage and statesmanship to play the same role? (Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: You want to come in!) You have no reason to be afraid of that. We have tested you from the Congress Party to the Muslim League Party. Treachery has its limit, but you have outstripped that limit of treachery, Mr. Rasik Lal Biswas.

Sir, so far as the future is concerned, I say this in all earnestness and seriousness that there is absolutely no hope for Bengal unless you and we can combine. There is absolutely no hope for the province unless we all sink our party differences and unite to solve the food problem. The other day, Mr. Suhrawardy said—I was not present in the House at that time—

that I had gone to ask for the support of the European party. The talk which I and two other friends had with the European party I need not disclose, but I can say this without any breach of confidence that there was no question of our asking for their support for any party interest. The point which we put to them and which we put to them today in public is that the Bengal Legislative Assembly, taking the Indian members, is divided into two sharp groups: we have 100 Hindus and Muslims in the Opposition and add to them the 10 members who are behind the prison bars which will give you 110; and on the Government side you have about 110 or 115 Hindus and Muslims and 30 others who are neither Hindus nor Muslims but something else sitting over there to hold the balance. What we appeal to them is this: at this crisis when the offer from the Opposition is that we must present a united front to solve the food problem with which the country is faced, you should do nothing which will place Bengal under the heels of sordid party-politics and prevent that united front which alone can make any scheme of rehabilitation and food scheme successful. What about the judgment delivered by the Chief Justice of Bengal? That shows how things are moving on. The Chief Justice is not a member of the Opposition, and we have no control over the Chief Justice's expression of views. We have no control over the Chief Justice's pen and views. The Chief Justice said two days ago——(A member from Coalition Benches: Is it Pollard?) It is not Pollard. It is another M.L.A., an M.L.A. who belonged to the Opposition against whom certain criminal proceedings were pending. He was made to go to the Government party and the bait was given to him that the proceedings would be withdrawn. The Chief Justice's judgment makes it clear——(Voices from Coalition Benches: It is a lie.) If you say it is a lie, you call the Chief Justice of Bengal a liar. Go and say that to him Do not say that to me. He had before him the letters and documents and he had made it abundantly clear that the Secretary of a particular department was desired by—the name was not mentioned and the Chief Justice went on asking by whom he was desired —to approach the District Magistrate to give long adjournment in respect of this case.

Sir, what I say is this. This is only one illustration. There are other illustrations of this sort where force and coercion are being brought to bear on members of the legislature in order to keep the Government party somehow alive but, Sir, the point is that it will have a direct effect on the morale of the province. What we want is that there must be a strong and united government representing all parties who are willing to work the constitution and then it will be——(Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: You are dividing the Muslims.) We do not wish to divide the Muslims. We want that all of us should unite and you say we are dividing the Muslims. It is you who are dividing the Muslims and not we. If we can unite it is only then that we can hope to solve the food problem. I offer the hand of co-operation in full earnestness and I hope, Sir, that the response will come from the party that now controls the destiny of the Ministry. On the other hand, if you go on as you are going on, you can keep your Ministry for some days, but now with the food situation being what it is, with the lack of confidence in the mind of the people as we witness in every part of the province and the war situation taking the turn that it has taken

it will be the greatest mistake that can ever be commited by any Government. I hope, Sir, that we shall be able to rise equal to the occasion and prove to posterity that although we might have fought and fought hard in the course of the last few years, when a real crisis came we stood up like men and we took up the great task and responsibility for saving the province which is the beloved motherland of Hindus, Muslims, Christians and every one who can subordinate personal, party and communal interests to the supreme considerations of national welfare.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have listened with great interest and care the observations made by the honourable members in moving the cut motions as well as the discussions that followed. I am thankful to those members who have made practical suggestions and I can assure them that they will receive the most earnest consideration of Government. But I am sincerely sorry, Sir, that some of the members of the Opposition in their great anxiety to hurl abuses on the present Ministry have only indulged in vague, baseless and wild charges and unjustified criticism and have hopelessly failed to advance any constructive suggestion or criticism regarding the administration of relief.

Sir, even Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee has said many things. He has also tried to hurl abuses on the present Ministry and the party supporting it. He has spoken about many other things and he has also said many things about the Department of Civil Supplies. But, Sir, he has not uttered a single sentence suggesting any constructive proposal or even criticism regarding the demand under discussion. So, Sir, I have hardly anything to say in reply regarding his observations. He has not thrown a single suggestion about our present relief measures or matters concerning it. I am sure, Sir, my friend Mr. Suhrawardy will avail himself of the earliest opportunity to reply to his observations regarding the Civil Supplies Department. I submit that the Ministry has done its utmost for rendering every possible relief to the distressed. It is very gratifying to note that in these humanitarian services we received the fullest help, best support and whole-hearted co-operation of all sections of the public. People irrespective of caste and creed died in thousands due to poverty and sickness and irrespective of caste and creed Government rendered every possible help and relief to them with the fullest help and co-operation of the people of all castes and creed. In a humanitarian work of such great magnitude Government feels that its success depends on the earnestness and devotion to duties of the officers on the one hand, and the sincere help and co-operation of the public on the other. There can be no doubt that the recent country-wide distress was vast in magnitude and unprecedented in character. It has most rightly been observed that the extraordinary situation through which the present Ministry had to pass is of an unprecedented magnitude and the Ministry was called upon to deal with the biggest famine in the history of Bengal.

Sir, I shall place before the House what has been done during the year for rendering relief and from which it will be possible for the House to judge whether Government have failed to discharge their duties properly.

Sir, it has been alleged that Government failed in their duty by not declaring famine in Bengal. I submit that every possible step was taken to meet the abnormal situation. To check the progress of famine conditions,

Government at a very early stage issued large amounts as agricultural loans to remove distress and to enable the cultivators to employ as many landless labourers as possible. Up to June, 1943, a sum of Rs. 1,17,78,000 was actually paid as agricultural loans. From July onwards the situation rapidly deteriorated and severe distress prevailed in many parts of the province. To meet the situation Government adopted various relief measures as will be seen from the following facts. Up to date 1 crore 32 lakhs has been paid for test relief works, 2 crores 17 lakhs for agricultural loans and 3 crores 96 lakhs for gratuitous relief. Besides over Rs. 60 lakhs has been spent for medical relief and for such other allied purposes. The amounts spent may be short of the full needs and requirements of the situation, but never in the history of Bengal or even of India has relief been on such an extensive scale.

Sir, it is true that famine was not formally declared in Bengal, but it is inconceivable how a mere declaration of famine could have helped to improve matters. Such a declaration would only have deteriorated the morale of the people and fettered the hands of the Government to render relief to that extent which has actually been possible to achieve.

Sir, I shall very birefly place before the House what are the implications of declaration of famine as provided in the Famine Code and what measures were actually taken by Government.

The Famine Code provides that when a serious famine appears, a Commissioner is to be appointed. An expert administrator on relief measures was appointed as Famine Relief Commissioner. The Code requires that all expenditure on any relief carried through District Boards should be borne by Government. As I have already mentioned, Rs. 1 crore 32 lakhs was spent on test relief works during the current financial year. According to the Famine Code gratuitous relief is to be confined only to persons who from age or physical infirmity are incapable of earning their own livelihood, but, as a matter of fact, gratuitous relief on a much wider scale was undertaken and during the current year over Rs. 3 crores 96 lakhs has already been distributed in the shape of gratuitous relief of various kinds.

Gratuitous relief was given as free grain doles for maintenance, free cash doles for maintenance, for running free kitchens, free distribution of utensils and house building materials, free grants for house building and free grant to fishermen in cash or kind for nets and boats, to weavers, for purchase and repairs of looms, and also for similar other cottage industries. 6,625 free kitchens were run feeding on an average about 2,600,000 persons daily. In all over 110,000,000 people were fed. Besides daily unit rations were sold at cheap rates to over 160 million people. 200,000 lbs. of milk powder have been distributed free. In this connection the excellent services rendered by the Friends Ambulance Unit deserve special mention.

A sum of Rs. 40 lakhs have been spent by the Government for the purpose of distribution of blankets and cloth to the destitute persons in the province. As sufficient quantity of blankets were not available in the local market special arrangements were made for importing blankets from Bombay also. Prior to it a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs was allotted to the District Officers in cash for making local purchase, to meet their immediate needs, pending the receipt of clothes and blankets from Bombay and Calcutta.

The above mentioned sum was in addition to the quantity distributed by the Central Relief Fund and from His Excellency's Cyclone Relief Fund.

As regards the manner of distribution the following are the guiding principles, viz., that distribution should be made in the following order of priority:—the destitutes in hospital, the destitutes in poor houses, workhouses and orphanages, the destitutes attending free kitchens and other destitute persons including those of the poorer middle class. Distribution should be made on the basis of the relief priority lists.

Government have tried to do their best with all the resources at their disposal to prevent deaths due to famine and starvation.

Seventy-one orphans' homes with accommodation for about 3,460 orphans were started. Two hundred and twenty poor houses and about 2,000 milk canteens were also opened. Over 4,500 relief committees have so far been formed and over 210 work and poor houses are now actually functioning.

The work of medical relief was carried out under the control of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department. Since November, 1943, the military authorities have been rendering invaluable services. Seven hundred and forty-nine emergency hospitals with 23,250 beds were opened and 250 mobile medical units were provided in rural areas providing medical officers for preventive work and sending out mobile medical units in remote villages. Government arranged for sale of food grains to the people at subsidised rates in spite of the fact that Famine Code prescribes that such relief should be given from charitable funds only.

Thus it will be seen that the Government not only followed what is required by the Famine Code but in fact in some respects went much beyond the scope prescribed by the Famine Code.

It is said that coercive steps were taken and undue pressure was put to realise agricultural loans. I submit, Sir, that out of Rs. 3,88,65,000 advanced so far only Rs. 15 lakhs has been realised till the end of January. Besides, Sir, it is for the House to decide whether this realisation is an excessive and coercive measure. I would submit that better realisation of loans at least from the surplus areas may be well justified as an anti-inflationary measure and also for utilising the amounts thus realised for giving loans to those who still require it.

The Government liberally helped non-official organisations which carried on relief works in different parts of the province. The Ram Krishna Mission, Indian Red Cross, South Calcutta Relief Society, Bengal Muslim League Relief Organisation, the Hindu Mahasabha, the Hindu Mission, the Muslim Chamber of Commerce, the Dacca Central Relief Society and various other organisations have been most liberally helped.

Sir, from these facts the House will judge whether the Government had failed to discharge its duties earnestly and properly and to the best of its power.

Sir, the demand under the head "54—Famine Relief" for 1944-45 has been provisionally fixed at Rs. 2,61,00,000. If, however, a larger provision of funds is found necessary later Government would not hesitate to do so. Besides this, Government propose to incur a very large expenditure under the scheme of rehabilitation which is being worked out in details.

Now, Sir, this is so far as the points raised by different members are concerned. As regards motion No. 29 moved by my honourable friend Maulvi Ramizuddin Ahmed, it relates to the Civil Supplies Department. Coming to the other motion, namely, No. 32 moved by my honourable friend Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri, I am sorry to say, Sir, that a parliamentarian like Mr. Chaudhuri has not cared to read the note below the budget provision. Otherwise he would not try to prejudice the opinion of the public by saying that the cost of establishment was much more than the actual expenditure. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: I did not say that. The Hon'ble Minister is misquoting me.) In the ensuing year, Sir, I may tell the House that although the total demand is Rs. 1,11,00,000 only a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs is actually the amount of expenditure on account of establishment.

The famine which devastated the province is now fortunately passing over. We do not anticipate that famine condition will recur in the coming year. The demand for grants is not therefore for famine conditions but for the aftermath of the famine which we have to grapple with and remedy. We have still to feed people who have lost what little they had; we have to nurse back into health people who are suffering from malnutrition and diseases induced by famine conditions; we have to take care of the very large number of women and children who have now nobody to provide for them; we have also to put on their feet considerable numbers of impoverished people who cannot earn enough to maintain themselves and their families.

The details of our scheme of rehabilitation were in the process of being drawn up by a sub-committee of the Cabinet and the financial implications are now being examined thoroughly by the Finance Department. The scheme, when worked out, will be put into operation at an immediate date. No provision could therefore be made in the budget for rehabilitation and we have asked for grants only to meet the expenditure on relief operations. In the budget of 1944-45 one crore was provided for gratuitous relief, half a crore for miscellaneous test works and one crore and eleven lakhs for expenditure on the emergency hospitals, orphanages, poor houses and destitutes' homes.

The rehabilitation scheme is now being hammered into its final shape. I may perhaps be permitted to place before the House briefly what is intended to be undertaken immediately.

It is proposed to divide the areas which were hit very hard by the distress into a number of convenient rehabilitation circles and to establish one central workhouse in each circle. It is contemplated that each workhouse will provide work for about 200 people at the workhouse itself while at least four times that number will be given work which they can do in their own homes; each workhouse will also have subsidiary workhouses as is necessary to find work for people in the more outlying areas of the circle. Adequate arrangements will be made for the collection and marketing of the articles produced in or through the workhouses and their subsidiaries. Technical guidance will be available and it is hoped that people will be taught new arts and crafts and these unfortunate and landless people who have been ever living on the verge of starvation in our villages will be able to earn enough, perhaps for the first time in their lives, to maintain themselves and their families in resonable comfort.

A net work of cottage industries will thus be established all over the countryside which will undoubtedly raise the standard of life for the masses and add to the national wealth of the Province. Two hundred and ten workhouses and poor houses are now functioning.

To each workhouse will be attached a milk canteen which will supply milk and protective foods to children, and expectant and nursing mothers. It is also proposed to attach, as an experimental measure, children's home —a Creche where children will be properly looked after when their mothers are at work. Already over 1,900 milk canteens have been established.

Similarly a net work of homes will be set up all over the province to house and to look after unfortunate women who have nobody to take care of them now and children—orphans and deserted children. The Agriculture Department is arranging for plough-cattle, etc. The Industries Department has also taken up its task.

At least one crore of rupees is proposed to be spent for undertaking small irrigation projects, re-excavation of tanks, etc., which will undoubtedly increase the productivity of the soil and further operate as measures of sanitation calculated to make the countryside healthier. The District, Subdivisional and Union Relief Committees will be reconstituted and made more representative and will be henceforward known as Relief and Rehabilitation Committees. It is also proposed to have a Provincial Central Committee for this purpose.

The Bengal Alienation of Agricultural Lands Bill which has been unanimously passed by the Upper House and which will come up before this House soon is also a part of our Rehabilitation Scheme.

A project of this nature will need several crores to finance it properly and Government will come up before the House for financial sanction as the scheme is being worked out. May I venture to submit that never before in the annals of public administration in the country has a Government been prepared to undertake a scheme of such magnitude for the welfare of the people especially at a time when the financial position of the province has been reduced to such a state with little prospects of immediate recovery—a situation which is none of our making but which has been thrust upon us by the stress of circumstances beyond our control.

Sir, I submit that this Government cannot be accused of having failed to give anxious attention to the measures needed to meet an unprecedented situation created by the famine or being oblivious of the post-famine problems the province is likely to face in the near future.

We sincerely belive that the scheme of rehabilitation which we are now going to introduce, if successfully worked will change the face of rural Bengal. But this can only be achieved if full support is given to it by all sections of the public, irrespective of their political affiliations. May I hope and pray that this may kindly be extended in the interest of the common good that is being envisaged and endeavoured to achieve? Criticism will certainly be welcome but not of the kind that falls only too often to our lot. Men cannot work wonders and let it be remembered that we are striving our best to repair the damage and to build for a better Bengal and we have the right to ask for time. It is not days nor months but perhaps years which will fully reveal the true extent of the healing

operations which we are now undertaking. I appeal to you all for your good wishes and co-operation in the great work on which we are embarking.

I oppose all the cut motions.

The motion of Mr. Kamal Krishna Ray that the demand of Rs. 2,61,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100 which was moved to raise a discussion about the policy of Government regarding the relief operations in Bengal, was then put and a division taken, with the following result:—

AYES—82.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Jabbar Pawan, Mr. Md.
Abdul Majid, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Asimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Badruddoja, Mr. Syed.
Banerjee, Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Barman, Mr. Upendra Nath.
Bhowmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das, Babu Radhanath.
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.
Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath.
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Edbar, Mr. Upendranath.
Fazlul Huq, Mr. A. K.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Golam Sarwar Hosaini, Mr. Shah Syed.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Alhadj.
Habibullah, Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr Syed.
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Syed.
Jalan, Mr. I. D.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Lahiri, Babu Ashutosh.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Manirurzaman, Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hossain, Mr.
Mookerjee, Dr. Syamaprasad.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Mukerji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan.
Mukherjee, Mr. B.
Mukherji, Dr. H. C.
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra.
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh.
Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi.
Nandy, Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nasker, Mr. Hemchandra.
Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan.
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna.
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
Roy, Mr. Manmathanath.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Roy, Shib Shekhareswar, Kumar.
Sanaullah, Dr.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Sen, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Sen, Jogesh Chandra, Rai Bahadur.
Sen-Gupta, Mrs. Nellie.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Shamsul Huda, Maulana.
Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan.
Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar.
Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

NOES—120.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakeem, Mr. (Khulna).
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi.
Abdul Jabbar, Maulvi.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed (Noakhali).
Abdul Motaleb Malik, Dr.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Abdul Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr.
Abdur Rashid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rashood, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Maulvi S. (Howrah).
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah (Rangpur).
Abdus Shaheed, Maulvi Md.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Masud, Kazi.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Barman, Babu Shayama Prosad.
Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart.

Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Chakraborty, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Chakraborty, Babu Narendra Narayan.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Das, Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Das, Mr. Manmohan.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Gladding, Mr. D., C.I.E.
Golam Rabbani Ahammad, Maulvi.
Gomes, Mr. R. A.
Goswami, the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra.
Griffiths, Mr. C.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hamilton, Mr. K. A.
Hasanuzzaman, Khan Sahib Maulvi Md.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs. M.B.E.
Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Haywood, Mr. Rogers.
Hendry, Mr. David.
Hirtzel, Mr. H. A. F., O.B.E.
Hodge, Mr. H. R.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawas Jah Syed.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Leick, Mr. John.
McPherson, Mr. G. P.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib Maulvi (Tippera).
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Mandal, the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Mandal, Mr. Krisna Prasad.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Masud Ali Khan Panni, Al-Hadj Maulvi.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Mohsin Ali, Mr. Md.
Morgan, Mr. G., C.I.E.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Abdul Halim Molla, Mr.
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Mukerjea, the Hon'ble Mr. Tarakanath, M. B. E.
Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Pulin Behary.
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nooruddin, Mr. K.
Norton, Mr. H. E., M. B. E.
Pain, the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prasanna.
Powell, Mr. J. A.
Rajibuddin Tarafdar, Maulvi.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Sahebe-Alam, Mr. Syed.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Shahedali, Mr.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Smart, Mr. J. N.
Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Therman, Mr. C. M.
Walker, Mr. J. R.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M., C. B. E.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C. I. E.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.
Zillur Rahman Shah Choudhury, Maulvi.

The Ayes being 82 and the Noes 120, the motion was lost.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for fifteen minutes).

(After adjournment.)

The motion of Sj. Narendra Nath Das Gupta that the demand of Rs. 2,61,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100 which was moved to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government which aggravated famine and dismal failure to cope with it was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—83.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Jabbar Palwan, Mr. Md.
Abdul Majid, Maulvi (Mymensingh.)
Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana.
Ahmed, Khan Mr. Syed.
Aslamuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Badruddoja, Mr. Syed.
Banerjea, Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Barman, Mr. Upendra Nath.
Bhawmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Chattopadyyay, Mr. Haripada.
Chaudhuri, Rai Narendra Nath.
Das, Babu Radhanath.
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.
Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Deini, Mr. Narendra Nath.
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.

Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Eddar, Mr. Upendranath.
Fazlul Huq, Mr. A. K.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Golam Sarwar Hosaini, Mr. Shah Syed.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Alhadj.
Habibullah, Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hasan Ali Choudhury, Mr. Syed.
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Syed.
Jalan, Mr. I.D.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Lahiri, Babu Ashutosh.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hosain, Mr.
Mookerjee, Dr. Shyamaprasad.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Mukerji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan.
Mukherjee, Mr. B.
Mukherji, Dr. H. C.
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra.
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh.
Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi.
Nandy, Maharaja Srischandra of Cossimbazar.
Naskar, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Poddar, Mr. Anandilal.
Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan.
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna.
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.*
Roy, Shib Shekhareswar, Kumar.
Sanaullah, Dr.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Sen, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Sen, Jogesh Chandra, Rai Bahadur.
Sen-Gupta, Mrs. Nellie.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khandkar, Mr.
Shamsul Huda, Maulana.
Sinha, Srijut Maninindra Bhusan.
Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar.
Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

NOES—118.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakeem, Mr. (Khulna).
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi.
Abdul Jabbar, Maulvi.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed (Noakhali).
Abdul Metaleb Malik, Dr.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Maulvi S. (Howrah).
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah (Rangpur).
Abdus Shaheed, Maulvi Md.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Masud, Kazi.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hossain, Mr.
Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Barman, Babu Syama Prosad.
Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Chakrabarty, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Chakrabarty, Babu Narendra Narayan.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Das, Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Das, Mr. Manmohan.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Farhad Raza Choudhury, Mr. M.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh.)
Gladding, Mr. D., C.I.E.
Golam Rabbani Ahammad, Maulvi.
Gomes, Mr. R. A.
Goswami, the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra.
Griffiths, Mr. C.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hamilton, Mr. A. K.
Hasanuzzaman, Khan Sahib Maulvi Md.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E.
Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Haywood, Mr. Rodgers.
Hendry, Mr. David.
Hirtzel, Mr. M.A.F., O.B.E.
Hodge, Mr. H. R.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Leisk, Mr. John.
McPherson, Mr. G. P.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib Maulvi (Tippera).
Mandal, Mr. Amrit Lal.
Mandal, Mr. Sanku Behari.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Mandal, the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prosad.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Masud Ali Khan Panni, Al-Hadj Maulvi.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Mohsin Ali, Mr. Md.
Morgan, Mr. G., C.I.E.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Abdul Halim Molla, Mr.
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.

Mukerjea, the Hon'ble Mr. Tarakanath, M.B.E.
Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Pulin Behary.
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab Khan Bahadur
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nooruddin, Mr. K.
Norton, Mr. H. R., M.B.E.
Pain, the Hon'ble Mr. Baroda Prasanna.
Powell, Mr. J. A.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Sahebe-Alam, Mr. Syed.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Shahedali, Mr.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Sirdar, Babu Lilta Munda.
Smart, Mr. J. N.
Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Thorman, Mr. C. M.
Walker, Mr. J. R.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M., C.B.E.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C.I.E.
Yusuf Ali Chaudhury, Mr.
Zillur Rahman Shah Choudhury, Maulvi.

The Ayes being 83 and the Noes 118 the motion was lost.

The motion of Maulvi Abdul Wahed that the demand of Rs. 2,61,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 2,61,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Ramizuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs. 2,61,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Maulvi Ramizuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs. 2,61,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The Motion of Mr. Jogesh Chandra Gupta that the demand of Rs. 2,61,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri that the demand of Rs. 2,61,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Radhanath Das that the demand of Rs. 2,61,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea that a sum of Rs. 2,61,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-33 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Thursday, the 30th March, 1944, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 30th March, 1944, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 199 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Maintenance of embankments of tidal rivers in Sundarbans area of 24-Parganas.

*204. **Khan Bahadur JASIMUDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware that—

(*i*) the embankments on the tidal rivers of Sundarbans are not properly looked after in the district of 24-Parganas;

(*ii*) the Collector is bringing these facts to the notice of the Government for adequate measures;

(*iii*) the present procedure and the terms of the lease do not enable the Collector to get the embankments repaired by the jotdars; and

(*iv*) the embankments gave way in several places resulting in the denials of crops?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action Government propose to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea): (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) Under the terms of a lease held under the Rules of 1879 the lease can be absolutely determined in case of failure of the lessee to keep the embankments in an efficient state of repairs. Similarly in the case of a lease under the Rules of 1853, the leasehold land can be resumed if the lessee fails to keep at least one-half of the area in a condition fit for cultivation.

(*iv*) There have been occasional breaches in the embankments mainly due to negligence of jotdars.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration of Government.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long has the matter been engaging the attention of Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: It is rather difficult to say the exact period, but Government comes to a decision at a very early date.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*a*)(*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long has the Collector been bringing the matter to the notice of the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I want notice.

Khan Bahadur FAZLUL QUADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether during the last 3 years there was any breach in the embankments due to unusual tide on the river?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Yes.

Khan Bahadur FAZLUL QUADIR: What action has Government taken in such cases when it was not the fault of the *jotedars?*

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: So far as I remember Government took steps to get the embankments repaired.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the income that has accrued from the *jotedars?*

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I cannot say off-hand. I want notice.

Khan Bahadur JASIMUDDIN AHMED: With reference to answer (*a*)(*iv*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the breaches were due to negligence of *jotedars* or *lotdars?*

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Both.

Khan Bahadur JASIMUDDIN AHMED: With reference to answer (*a*)(*i*) and (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action has been taken by Government to repair the embankments quickly?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: The embankments are repaired under the supervision of the Irrigation Department. Government do give notice to the Irrigation Department to have the embankments repaired immediately.

Khan Bahadur JASIMUDDIN AHMED: Are the embankments maintained by the Irrigation Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: No, the repair works are done under the supervision o fthe Irrigation Department.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*a*)(*iii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that under the revised terms following the expiry of the first period of the lease of these temporarily settled tracts the cost of maintaining the embankments is included to enhance the revenue payable by these *lotdars* so that thereafter the liability for maintaining the embankments is taken over by Government themselves?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*a*)(*iv*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in which cases and in what respects, the *jotedars* or *lotdars* might be negligent when the maintenance is the charge of the Irrigation Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: As I have already stated the repairs are done under the superivision of the Irrigation Department.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The answer is that there have been occasional breaches in the embankments mainly due to the negligence of the *jotedars* and, as has been added by the Hon'ble Minister, of *lotdars*. I

would like to know under what circumstances such negligence is revealed when the maintenance is done by the Irrigation Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I have never said that maintenance is done by the Irrigation Department. Only repair works are done under the supervision of the Irrigation Department.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Irrigation Department also arranges the execution of the maintenance works?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: No.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Who does the execution, please?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: These things are done by *jotedars* or *lotdars* under supervision of the Irrigation Department.

Khan Bahadur FAZLUL QUADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who paid the charges of repairs?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: So far as I remember *jotedars* and *lotdars* paid them.

Khan Bahadur JASIMUDDIN AHMED: With reference to answer (*a*)(*iii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any case found during the last 3 years in which a lease is determined?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I want notice.

Lands acquired for the purpose of using as a public park in Pabna.

***205. Maulvi AZHAR ALI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware that about 10 acres of arable and paddy-growing land, including homesteads in front of Pabna Circuit Bungalow and Collector's Bungalow and away from town proper, was ordered by the District Magistrate of Pabna, in October last, to be placed under his disposal for excavation of a swimming tank, playgrounds and children's park for recreation in the town of Pabna under Defence of India Rules?

(*b*) Is it a fact that—

(*i*) there being some legal complications regarding payment of compensation to the occupants, the District Magistrate assured the tenants to make purchase of the requisite land at a market rate, on behalf of the local Youth Welfare Council to avoid legal intricacies and to give the tenants their dues; and

(*ii*) subsequently the District Magistrate, all on a sudden, served notice upon the occupants and dwellers to vacate the land and quit the homesteads within 24 hours, without any payment of compensation and any arrangement for their dwelling houses?

(*c*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether non-arable fallow lands were not available with less costs and more adjacent to the town proper;

(*ii*) whether the tenants filed petitions before the Hon'ble Home, Revenue, Agriculture and Civil Supplies Ministers early in January last;

(*iii*) what step has been taken by the said Hon'ble Ministers to protect these paddy-growing lands of the locality from being converted into a park;

(*iv*) whether the park is going to be named "Basanta Park" to perpetuate the name of the District Magistrate, after his retirement very soon;

(*v*) whether labour has recently been requisitioned from the district of Murshidabad and digging started by persons other than the inhabitants of the locality for the provision of whose relief works and help the Defence of India Rules were applied;

(*vi*) whether the cultivators were forced to remove the standing crop before it was ripe at a heavy loss; and

(*vii*) if so, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of stopping the work of excavation at once to save the poor occupants from further trouble and allow the land to grow more food?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: (*a*) The land which is situated within the municipal area has been acquired for the purpose of a public park.

(*b*) (*i*) No such assurance was given to the tenants.

(*ii*) No sudden order to quit was given. Notice of requisition was issued on the 5th October, 1943, and formal delivery of possession was taken on the 19th October, 1943. But the tenants were allowed to reap their full harvests in due time and the two occupants of the homesteads actually vacated the land on the 18th February, 1944, by which time they had made arrangements for homesteads elsewhere. They were given full removal costs in advance and under the award they are entitled to compensation.

(*c*) (*i*) No other suitable site which would have caused lesser disturbance to the residents was available.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) In view of the usefulness of the project, no action was considered necessary.

(*iv*) No such proposal has been made.

(*v*) There are about 300 labourers employed on the work, of whom 30 have been imported from Murshidabad to do the technical part of tank-digging, the rest of the workers being local.

(*vi*) No.

(*vii*) The project which will improve the amenities of the town is a beneficent measure and Government do not consider that there is any ground for stopping the work.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the distance of this place from the densely populated part of the town of Pabna?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that it is about 2 miles away from the *cutchary* area of Pabna?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: As I have already stated, I want notice.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state under what law was this acquisition made—under the Land Acquisition Act or under the Defence of India Rules?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Under the Land Acquisition Act.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that it was done under the Land Acquisition Act? Your information seems to be incorrect.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Under the Land Acquisition Act.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that in the Land Acquisition Act there is no provision for requisition and no provision for vacation——

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of law.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how it was possible for the local officer to require vacating the plot within 14 days of the notice if it was under the Land Acquisition Act?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: It is possible if the land is vacant.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it was a fact that in the notice published in the *Calcutta Gazette* for acquiring this land it was mentioned that it was being taken over for the prosecution of the war and for other items as required under the Defence of India Rules?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the tenants have not been given any compensation for the removal of their homesteads as mentioned in answer (*b*)(*ii*) as yet?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: That is not a fact.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: When was the compensation given?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I want notice.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has noticed that the acquisition of land for a purpose other than cultivation is standing in the way of the "Grow More Food Campaign" of the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: It may be, Sir.

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: With reference to answer (*c*)(*i*), namely, "no other suitable site which would have caused lesser disturbance to the residents was available," I should like to enquire whether the plot to the west of the College premises was quite suitable and big enough for the purpose and is within the heart of the town?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: As I have no local knowledge, I cannot say.

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: In that case, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how the reply was given that no suitable site was available?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is an argumentative question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the local municipality for the benefit of which these amenities were supposed to have been provided was consulted in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: It is on their requisition that this land was acquired.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the local public have requested the Government for the need of such a Park in the town?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: The municipality represents the local public and their requisition was there.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has got any reference showing or justifying his conclusion that the municipality made a request?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Otherwise how could the land be acquired?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the municipality has lodged a protest against the acquisition of the land?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: No, Sir.

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the land that has been acquired is just to the east of the District Magistrate's bungalow and for his purpose it was acquired?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I am not aware.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the area of the land acquired?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I want notice.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QUADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many applications or petitions of protest against this acquisition of land have been filed?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I am not aware.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there was actually any individual protest or there was a combined protest of the public?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: As I have already stated, I am not aware of that.

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: With reference to answer (*b*)(*i*), namely, that no such assurance was given to the tenants, may I ask the Hon'ble Minister to let me know if it is a fact that the tenants all went to the District Magistrate and showed their lease to him and that no compensation was given although leases for that land had been granted to the tenants by the zemindar?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I am not aware of that.

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that these tenants are not getting any compensation whatsoever?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: That is not a fact.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: With regard to answer (*b*)(*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state under what section of the Land Acquisition Act that plot of land was acquired?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I cannot quote the relevant section off-hand.

Maulvi AHMAD HOSSAIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if harvesting in this locality is not done before the month of November?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: As I have no local knowledge I cannot say.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*c*)(*ii*), what happened to the petitions filed by the persons aggrieved which were sent to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: That was properly enquired into by the local officers.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the petitions were forwarded to the Revenue Board which is the final appellate authority for examining any complaints regarding a land acquisition process?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: This matter took place long ago and I must therefore ask for notice.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is in a position to give us the probable estimated cost for the purpose?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: If proper notice is given I shall be only too glad to answer the question.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of utilising this plot of land for growing more food during the food crisis?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I submit, Sir, that question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in view of want of knowledge of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the locality and of the requirement of notices for giving answers to many questions put on this question he is considering the desirability of holding up the work for the time being to enable him to know the facts more fully?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I have nothing further to add to what I have already stated.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pelased to state if he is aware that there is considerable feeling against his Government for having allowed an unauthorised and illegal acquisition of land from poor tenants for the purpose of providing a suitable garden and park behind the Collector's bunglow?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I am not aware of that.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is in a position to give us the source from which the expenditure to be incurred is to be met?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: From the Municipality.

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the land that has been acquired is very low and, if so, whether it will require an enormous amount of money for the earth work?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I am not aware.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he considers the desirability of holding an enquiry as to whether this acquisition was made in spite of a protest lodged by the municipality?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I shall hold an enquiry.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I give you notice, Sir, that I shall move an adjournment motion on this question on the first non-official day or on any other suitable occasion because the answers have been very unsatisfactory.

"Poor Box Fund" maintained by Calcutta Police.

***206. Mr. Syed SAHABE-ALAM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that—

(*i*) the Deputy Commissioner of Police at Lall Bazar maintains a fund known as the "Poor Box Fund"; and

(*ii*) there is a Government circular prohibiting the maintenance of funds for such purposes by Government officers in Government department?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for the maintenance of the fund?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the objects and reasons for keeping the fund;

(*ii*) the persons from whom collections are made;

(*iii*) the person or persons who administer the fund; and

(*iv*) the purpose for which expenditure and disbursements are made?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

(*i*) the income of the fund in the year 1942-43;

(*ii*) the total expenditure in the year 1942-43 (mentioning ten highest items of expenditure in that year);

(*iii*) the cash balance as it stood on 31st January, 1944; and

(*iv*) audit report for the year 1941-42?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of appointing a small committee to administer the funds.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) This fund is maintained with the special sanction of Government.

(*c*) A copy of the Rules for the administration of the fund which gives the required information is laid on the Table.

(*d*) A statement furnishing information in respect of items (*i*), (*ii*) and (*iii*) together with a copy of the audit report on the accounts of the fund for the year 1941-42, is laid on the Table.

(*e*) No.

Copy of rules referred to in reply to clause (c) of starred question No. 206.

Rules for the administration of the Calcutta Police Poor Box Fund.

Receipts.—The receipts of the fund consist of—

(1) voluntary contributions made by the public;

(2) charges realised by police for keeping in their custody the properties made over to them by the carters, etc., when they are unable to find out the owners thereof; and

(3) contribution made by the contractor for erecting stands on the maidan.

Expenditure.—(A) The object of the fund is to provide relief to the needy and the distressed in Calcutta and it is intended to be applied in the following cases:—

(1) To afford temporary relief to indigent persons praying for help, for food or clothing or start in life.

(2) To pay railway or steamer fare and subsistence and conveyance hire to persons found destitute in Calcutta and also to such persons who are, for financial reasons, unable to meet the travelling charges in connection with the journey to seek or join appointment outside.

(3) To meet the medical expenses in deserving cases.

(4) To provide spectacles or artificial teeth and orthopædic apparatus to poor persons.

(5) To give donations to churches, charitable institutions and hospitals.

(6) To afford relief to the ex-prisoners when the same is not admissible from the Claude Martin Fund.

(7) To pay the travelling expenses and subsistence of mufassil witnesses of poor circumstances attending the Coroner's Court in Calcutta who are not eligible for the same under the rules of the court.

(8) To afford relief in cases which the Commissioner of Police or the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Headquarters, considers fit.

(B) No single payment should ordinarily exceed Rs.100. In exceptional circumstances the amount may be raised to Rs.250.

(C) The Commissioner of Police and the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Headquarters, are the authorities who can sanction payments from the Fund.

Payees' receipts.—

(1) There must be a voucher or "pay order" on which the actual payee's receipt should be taken.

(2) Where it is not possible for the payee to appear personally for the help owing to illness or very cogent reasons, the amount sanctioned may be disbursed by a police officer not below the rank of a sub-inspector of police, the payment being certified by a gazetted officer.

(3) In exceptional cases where actual payee's receipts cannot be taken, amounts may be personally disbursed by a gazetted officer on his recording a disbursement certificate on the voucher.

Audit.—The Fund shall be audited each year by the Accountant-General, Bengal.

Statement referred to in (d) of starred question No. 206.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Total income of the Fund in 1942-43 ...	54,841	8	6
Total expenditure of the Fund in 1942-43 ...	10,419	8	9
Ten highest items of payment from the Fund during 1942-43—			
(*i*) To the Consulate-General of China in April, 1942, for helping the Chinese orphans ...	1,000	0	0
(*ii*) To the Bengal Tuberculosis Association in April, 1942, for extra nourishment to tuberculosis patients ...	500	0	0
(*iii*) To the Bengal Tuberculosis Association in February, 1943, for extra nourishment to tuberculosis patients ...	500	0	0
(*iv*) To the Refuge in July, 1942, for the maintenance of orphans ...	300	0	0
(*v*) To Lady Hardinge Linen League in May, 1942, for distributing linen blankets, etc., to poorer hospitals ...	250	0	0
(*vi*) To the Salvation Army in September, 1942, for relief to the distressed inmates of the Association ...	250	0	0
(*vii*) To the Indian Committee, District Charitable Society, in October, 1942, for distribution amongst destitutes and poor people ...	250	0	0
(*viii*) To Lady Hardinge Linen League in March, 1943, for distributing linen blankets, etc., to poorer hospitals ...	250	0	0
(*ix*) To the District Charitable Society in July, 1942, for distribution amongst the destitute people ...	200	0	0
(*x*) To the Ram Krishna Medical Association in August, 1942, towards the help for their charitable hospital ...	100	0	0
Cash balance of the Fund on 31st January, 1944 ...	93,558	9	1

Audit report (on the accounts of the Poor Box Fund for the year 1941-42) referred to in reply to clause (d) of starred question No. 206.

* * * *

The Government of Bengal in their Political Department letter No. 3356-Pl., dated 11th November, 1941, sanctioned payment of Rs.3,000 to the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Bengal on the understanding that the same will not be devoted to charitable objects outside Calcutta, and the same was paid as per voucher No. 213, but no record was available during audit to show that the amount was utilised according to the condition specified in the above order of the Government. It is understood that the authorities have been moved to furnish the required certificate.

A sum of Rs.50 was paid under voucher No. 155 to Young Men's Christian Association as a help for holding a Basti Camp at Gomoh. The expenditure being for activities outside Calcutta, it is doubtful whether the expenditure in question was in conformity with the rules governing payment from the Poor Box Fund.

Under rule B of the rules for the administration of the Calcutta Police Poor Box Fund no single payment should, except under exceptional circumstances, exceed Rs.100. A sum of Rs.200 was paid to the Secretary, Blind School, but the information with regard to the exceptional circumstances for which the amount of payment exceeded Rs.100 was not available.

Rules governing the application of the Poor Box Fund authorise payment of relief occasionally in actual cases of distress but in the following cases the occasion for payment seems to have been too frequent:—

Name.	Voucher number and date.	Amount.
		Rs.
Mrs. B. Neal ...	102, dated 17-7-1941 ...	10
	131, dated 28-8-1941 ...	10
	135, dated 5-9-1941 ...	10
	198, dated 5-11-1941 ...	10
	242, dated 18-12-1941 ...	10
Mr. D. J. Gibbs ...	173, dated 11-10-1941 ...	20
	209, dated 20-11-1941 ...	20
	233, dated 10-12-1941 ..	10
	250, dated 23-12-1941 ...	5
	261, dated 7-1-1942 ...	5
Mrs. K. Grant ...	5, dated 23-3-1941 ...	50
	17, dated 9-4-1941 ...	50
	201, dated 30-10-1941 ..	60
	269, dated 23-1-1942 ...	75

A sum of Rs.50 was paid to the General Secretary, Indian School of Sports. The object of the institution was to provide facilities for several students enjoying the advantage of the competition of sports and to enable them to gain a healthy expression of discipline. It is doubtful whether the expenditure in question is in conformity with the provisions of the Rules.

Final orders of the Government with regard to the points noticed in last audit report have not been received as yet.

A. K. CHAKRAVARTY,
Examiner of Local Accounts, Bengal.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to rule (*3*) referred to in clause (*c*) which provides that the fund is intended to give donations to churches, charitable institutions and hospitals, will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of including temples and mosques in the list?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The matter will be examined.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if his attention has been invited to a question put by Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali when he was in the Opposition drawing attention to the illegality of maintenance of this fund?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: My attention has been drawn to it and the file is also with me.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the Government of Bengal has recently found, after Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali had put the question on a previous occasion, that the fund is being maintained without any legal authority?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir, it is not being maintained illegally. Government abolished the keeping of charities, funds and poor boxes by Government officers in courts, but this fund was allowed to continue by the special permission of Government.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Under what legal authority this fund is being maintained now?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: By orders of Government.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the law—the legal authority—for maintaining this fund? Government cannot ask anybody to maintain a fund.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There is no law prohibiting the maintenance of a fund. Abolition was done by Government circular. Special permission was however given to this fund.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if attention of Government has been drawn to the observations of the Chief Presidency Magistrate as well as of the High Court of Calcutta desiring the abolition of this fund and stating that this fund cannot be legally maintained?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of it.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: In view of the reply to question (*c*) —Rule (*6*)—to afford relief to the *ex*-prisoners, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this fund is also utilised for helping *ex*-security prisoners and *ex*-political prisoners also?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to the answer that the fund consists of voluntary contributions, is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the fund also receives large contributions of money exacted from prospective delinquents who otherwise ought to have been proceeded against in law?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There is no exaction, but money is sometimes collected from persons who technically infringe Motor Vehicles Rules.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that if the police did not extort this money for exempting persons who have breached the law, the money otherwise would have been available for increasing the revenues of the State on proper fines being levied on them by courts?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There is no extortion of money.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government have taken any action on the observation of the Hon'ble Chief Justice that profiteering offences should not be condoned by payments into the "Poor Fund"?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that recently a big merchant of Calcutta was made to pay about Rs. 10,000 to this fund on a promise of exemption from prosecution under the Defence of India Rules?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice. I am not aware of it.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QUADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in how many cases during 1942-43 offences were condoned on payment of a grant as contribution to this fund?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. ABUL HOSAIN AHMED: With reference to the audit report, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons why donations were showered on European or Anglo-Indian ladies and on one European or Anglo-Indian gentleman?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: In the audit report there is mention of three cases in which there were payments to three persons repeatedly for which there was an audit objection. I do not know the reason why repeated payments were made to them. I would ask for notice.

Mr. ABUL HOSAIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Bengali ladies had the fortune to receive such donations and, if so, their number?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi JASIMUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the special reasons for Government giving special sanction to this fund?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It would take some time to explain the reasons for the sanction of this fund.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of forming a Committee of this House to administer this fund?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is considering the desirability of associating with the Commissioner of Police any other responsible officer or officers of Government including any accountant or any officer of the Accountant-General of Bengal to administer this fund?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: As the fund is regularly audited by the Examiner of Local Accounts, that is not considered necessary.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Auditor or the Examiner of Local Accounts has got to audit the fund after the lapse of nearly two years when the whole fund has been actually spent away and there is no control of the Auditor over the actual distribution of the money?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The Auditor sees whether payments are regular or irregular.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why Government extend the facilities of audit from the Examiner of Local Account's office to this fund when there is no control of Government over the administration of this fund?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There is indirect control of Government as the fund is administered by the Commissioner of Police—the head of a department.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for refusing to constitute a Committee of this House or any other House for administering that fund?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There has been no complaint regarding the administration of this fund. Therefore, there is no such necessity.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Has the attention of Government ever been drawn to the series of complaints made in this House itself by Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal about three years ago and by Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali about a year ago regarding the administration or mal-administration of this fund and also has the attention of Government been drawn to the complaints recorded in the Appropriation Accounts in connection with the Public Accounts Committee report regarding the administration of this fund?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: So far as Mohammed Ali is concerned, he did not complain against the administration of this fund. He simply wanted to know whether Government would consider the desirability of appointing a committee to administer the fund?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of forming a Committee of Enquiry to go into the affairs of this fund?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is not considered necessary.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Deputy Secretary, Home (Police) Department,

at one time in charge, definitely instructed the Government that this fund was not being maintained in a proper and legal way and should, therefore, be abolished?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of it.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of framing rules for the administration of this fund?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There are already rules in existence for the administration of this fund.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will enquire whether any profiteering case has been condoned for payment into this Poor Box Fund?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir. An enquiry will be made.

Retail distribution of kerosene in Netrakona.

*207. **Mr. ABUL HOSSAIN AHMAD:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing thana by thana—

(*a*) the names; and

(*b*) addresses of all the license-holders of Netrakona subdivision for the sale of kerosene at controlled rates?

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): The retail sale of kerosene is not carried on under licence. There are therefore no "licence-holders".

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Petition for settlement of certain khas mahal lands in Barisal.

99. **Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that—

(*i*) the Hindus of Galachipa who have lost their means of livelihood on account of the last cyclone in the area as well as the denial policy of the Government appealed to the Government for grant of khas mahal land, which they promised to cultivate themselves;

(*ii*) an M.L.A. wrote a letter to the Minister in charge with a copy of the note submitted by the Collector of Barisal on their petition; and

(*iii*) a reply was received by the M.L.A. from the Revenue Department (No. 14481-L.R., dated Calcutta, the 19th October, 1943) that the matter was receiving the attention of Government?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what has been their decision in this matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: (*a*) (*i*) A petition was received from certain Hindus of Galachipa for settlement of khas mahal lands.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) Yes.

(b) It has not been found possible to settle any lands with the petitioners, who are not cultivators by occupation, after meeting the priority claims of people who are entitled to settlement of khas mahal lands.

Enquiry regarding Hunger-strike in Rajshahi Jail.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you might remember that I wanted information about a hunger-strike in the Rajshahi Jail and the Parliamentary Secretary promised to give some information. Will he now fulfil his promise?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, I would like to make a statement on behalf of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister. On the 29th December, 1943, there was an incident in the Rajshahi Central Jail in the course of which one security prisoner and some warders were injured. The matter was enquired into by the District Magistrate, Rajshahi, and by the Deputy Inspector-General of Prisons, and their reports were under Government consideration. During his visit to Rajshahi, the Hon'ble the Chief Minister promised the security prisoners that the final Government decision in the matter would be communicated shortly. There was unfortunately some delay in reaching the decision. Meanwhile, as a protest against the non-receipt of Government decision, a few of the prisoners decided to abstain from taking their meals and some others resorted to partial abstention of meals. The Government decision has already been communicated to the security prisoners and they have resumed taking their food in the normal manner. In pursuance of the Government decision the incident of the 29th December, 1943, will be the subject of a judicial proceeding in the course of which both the security prisoner and the warders will have ample opportunity of substantiating their respective versions.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Parliamentary Secretary let us know what is the period of the hunger-strike?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I want notice.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before we proceed with the Demands I should like to tell the House that there are as many as eleven Demands and the guillotine will fall punctually at 6 p.m. It will be desirable therefore if there is no objection from the Opposition that they concentrate upon certain cut motions which they consider very important. Otherwise perhaps most of the Demands will be guillotined without proper discussion.

5—Salt.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 12,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "5—Salt".

Sir, I reserve my comments till all the cut motions are moved.

Mr. P. BANERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 12,000 for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this to raise a discussion about Government's apathy towards the improvement of salt industry in the province by making adequate provision for

subsidies to the existing salt manufacturing companies and persons interested in the line and also other reasonable facilities.

Sir, it may be said that salt is scarce today in the country. In Calcutta also salt is not available at a price from Rs. 850 to Rs. 1,000 per hundred maunds, although, I know, lakhs of maunds of salt are lying in the godowns of Calcutta. Government cannot through its officers check the black-marketing which is still going on. Price is fixed at Rs. 4+Re. 1-9, that is, Rs. 5-9 as control price per maund. Salt is being sold at different rates according to quality by some agents, namely, Pir Muhammad and others. The Hon'ble Minister once said that so far as the problem of salt was concerned, there were some difficulties. It is true that there are difficulties in the way, but I must say that we have been emphasizing this fact since many years on the floor of this House and Government ought to have taken note of that and these manufacturers of salt should have been encouraged before, but this has not been done. Fortunately, in the year 1931 after the Irwin Pact some facilities were given in the coastal districts like Midnapore and 24-Parganas and salt was being manufactured there and it was being sold at a price of 10 annas per maund. This state of things continued for some time. Thereafter Government began to harass those people and the harassment came to such a pass that people refused to manufacture salt on account of multifarious difficulties put on their way by Government. Recently after the last cyclone Government as a relief measure introduced some warehouses. So far as I am aware four warehouses were started in Midnapore, two in the district of 24-Parganas, and one in Chittagong. The Hon'ble Minister might have said that more warehouses have been introduced but the honourable members are well aware that there are only six or seven warehouses, and it is very difficult for the manufacturers to go and sell their stock at those warehouses. I, therefore, suggest that more warehouses should be started in order to give facilities to those people to go there and sell their salt without much difficulty.

Then, Sir, there are other obstacles so far as the manufacturing companies are concerned. Today, the Bengal Salt, Premier Salt and some other salt companies are not working properly for want of proper facilities. You will be surprised to hear that from December last the production of this Bengal Salt company has been reduced by 50 per cent. on account of non-supply of coal and practically the output of salt has gone down from 3,000 maunds per month to 1,500 maunds.

Then, Sir, after the havoc created by the last cyclone in Midnapore and the 24-Parganas, fuel was scarce in those places, and particularly in Midnapore fuel was very scarce, and as a matter of fact it was very difficult to obtain fuel at that time in Midnapore. The condition of coal was also the same. This was also not available. Up till now the position has not much improved. Therefore, I submit that if Government really want that facilities should be given both to those manufacturers of salt and to the companies as well, they should at once make arrangements, so that they may get coal, etc. If Government want that large quantity of salt must be manufactured, then they should give these and some other facilities to the poor people who are engaged in this work.

Sir, there are other difficulties which I should like to mention in the shape of duties taken at those warehouses. Salt is deposited there, but the weighment is made in Contai, Tamluk and other outlying places in the 24-Parganas. Now what happens is this. When salt is brought to Calcutta, it is reduced in weight on account of the difficulties which the Hon'ble Minister is aware of. Now, weight is reduced by about 10 seers per maund with the result that these companies are to suffer on that account.

Sir, another difficulty is that the Industrial companies here are to pay the central excise duty at Rs. 1-9 and Bengal Government dues at three annas per maund. I submit that the Government of Bengal themselves can exempt their dues of three annas, and they can at once approach the Central Government requesting them to exempt their duty for the time being, at least during the continuance of the war, thereby giving some facility and impetus to the industrial companies.

With these words, I move my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 12,000 under the head "5—Salt" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion to raise a discussion that under the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, dated the 5th March, 1931, the people by the side of salt-watered places are entitled to take salt prepared by them and to secure articles for family consumption in exchange of salt. But the Government servants unnecessarily harass the people by preventing them from taking salt by boats.

Sir, আমি আমার নামের motion move করিতেছি। ১৯৩১ সনের ৫ই মার্চ্চ তারিখে গান্ধী-আরউইন চুক্তি হইয়াছিল, এবং তাহা খবরের কাগজে প্রচারিত হইয়াছিল। তারপর আমি ১৯৩২ সনে তৎকালীন কাউন্সিলে প্রশ্ন করার ফলে গভর্ণমেণ্ট বলিয়াছিলেন —জনসাধারণ নিজেদের ব্যবহারের জন্য সমুদ্র তীরে লবণ সিদ্ধ করিয়া নিজ নিজ প্রয়োজনীয় জিনিষ পত্র সংগ্রহ করিতে পারে। (Hear hear.) সেই হইতে জনসাধারণ বিশেষ করিয়া আমাদের চট্টগ্রামের সমুদ্র তীরের লোকেরা লবণ সিদ্ধ করিয়া দেশের জন্য বহু লবণ সরবরাহ করিয়াছে, তাহার ফলে লবণের মণ চট্টগ্রামে ।।৵০ আনা হইতে ৸০ আনা দরে বিক্রয় হইয়াছে। গত ১৭ই ফেব্রুয়ারী এই এসেমব্লিতে আমার প্রশ্নের ফলে গভর্ণমেণ্ট বলিয়াছেন —সমুদ্র তীরবর্ত্তী লোকগণ লবণ তৈরী করিয়া তাহাদের পারিবারিক জিনিষপত্র বিনিময়ে আনিতে পারে। কিন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্ট এক নোটিশ জারি করিয়া দেশে যাহা প্রচার করিয়াছেন তাহাতে লেখা আছে যে কোন লবণ প্রস্তুত কারক তার লবণ সরকারী গোলাতে অথবা কনট্রাক্টরের নিকট ব্যতীত অন্য কোন প্রকারে হস্তান্তর করিতে পারিবে না। এবং গত ২৭শে মার্চ্চ ডাঃ সোনাউল্লা সাহেবের এক প্রশ্নে গভর্ণমেণ্ট উত্তর দিয়াছেন যে লবণের দাম নিম্নতম সংখ্যা মণ প্রতি ২ টাকা ধার্য্য করা হইয়াছে। কিন্তু উর্দ্ধতম সংখ্যার কোন নির্ণয় করা হয় নাই। এই সমস্ত নানা রকম বিশৃঙখলার ফলে (Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY ওঁদের সকল দিকেই বিশৃঙখলা।) চট্টগ্রামবাসীরা আর লবণ প্রস্তুত করিতে পারিতেছে না। এবং তাহার ফলে বর্ত্তমানে বাংলা দেশে লবণের এত অভাব ঘটিয়াছে।

Mr. PATIRAM ROY: I beg formally to move that the demand of Rs. 12,000 under the head "5—Salt" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I move this motion to raise a discussion about the development of salt-manufacture in the Sunderbans area.

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I just want to explain that this question has been discussed on more than one occasion and I have also answered on more than one occasion the questions put on the subject.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Your answers have been found unsatisfactory.

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: I do not think so. The answers could not be unsatisfactory.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: There is salt famine.

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: I have not found any new arguments advanced today. There is a parrot-like repetition of the same arguments.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Because of our hunger for salt.

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Now, there is another thing which I want to say. Distribution and supply of salt are not the concern of this department. They concern the Department of Civil Supplies. The Hon'ble Minister in charge of that Department has on more than one occasion explained the situation fully and exhaustively and has told the House what steps the Government have been taking in this matter. In view of that I do not think it was necessary to take up the time of the House in the manner that it has been taken today. As far as the question of manufacture of salt is concerned, I have already explained that the policy of Government is to encourage (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Inactivities) more and more the manufacture of salt on a small cottage industry basis. Government are also taking necessary steps for the manufacture of salt on commercial basis.

With these words I oppose all the cut motions.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The answer given by the Hon'ble Minister is very unsatisfactory. I therefore beg to move that the question be now put.

Mr. SPEAKER: You know that there has been some agreement.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: There has been a discussion on the Opposition side. We do not want this kind of assurance from Government. Government has not made out any case. Otherwise, we would not have pressed this motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: My difficulty is this. I am told that there has been an agreement.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Where is the agreement?

Mr. SPEAKER: I thought that there was an agreement.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: There was some talk about coming to an understanding. Government has not agreed to accept any of our submissions. When we suggested to them that yesterday the meeting might be held at 6 o'clock for the convenience of persons engaged in the corporation elections, Government did not agree. The question of agreement with such a body of persons is absolutely impossible.

Mr. SPEAKER: Whatever that may be so far as that question is concerned, I think there has been some agreement——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I move that the question be now put.

Mr. SPEAKER: It places me in a very awkward position.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You know that Government do not want to extend our time beyond 7 o'clock.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not speaking of that agreement. Dr. Sanyal, you yourself told me something from which I thought that there was an agreement.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Yes, as a matter of convenience this was suggested.

Mr. SPEAKER: Therefore, I took it that there had been an agreement. It is very difficult for me now. The Government Whip also told me something on the same lines.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Agreement about what, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Agreement about the whole thing. After all the entire thing has been discussed. It is a very delicate matter for me. My inference from the talk I had was that the arrangement was that all the demands and the cut motions would be put at the close of the meeting.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: I beg leave to state that I was never aware of that agreement.

Rai Bahadur JOGESH CHANDRA SEN: I was not aware of it either.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The Government Whip proposed this as a matter of convenience, but there was no agreement. The Government Whip never said that they had agreed to this. On the contrary I had no intimation from him. I only communicated to you that there was a suggestion made for convenience of debate and getting more time for discussion that all the questions be put last but there was actually no agreement as such. You know that also very well.

Mr. SPEAKER: It might be due to misconception on my part, but that was what I understood.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Then in that case I do not press that the question be now put.

57—Miscellaneous.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 27,20,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous".

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of 27,20,000 for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this in order to raise a discussion about—

(i) the policy of the Government regarding the allowances given to State prisoners and detenus;

(*ii*) inadequacy of the provisions on the head "Donation for Charitable Purposes" especially regarding maintenance of famine orphans; and

(*iii*) failure of the Government to start poor funds sought to be created under the Bengal Rural Poor and Unemployed Relief Act, 1939.

Sir, I shall first deal with clause No. (*i*). The Government seems to have a policy regarding the allowances to be given to the State prisoners and detenus. There are about 1,346 prisoners still in detention; although it appears from the Government report that about 800 security prisoners have been granted allowance, 600 have not as yet been granted any allowance. With regard to allowance the policy of the Government is that those persons who, according to the Government, had some income before arrest, will be granted allowance. With regard to this, my submission, through you, Sir, to the Hon'ble Minister is that there should be a revision of that policy. Admitting for the sake of argument that a prisoner had no income in 1940, it does not necessarily follow therefrom that he would not have earned if he were free in 1942, 1943 or 1944, especially when there are such vast opportunities for making good earnings in these days. There are persons who did not earn a single pie in 1940, who have now been earning by thousands. So the Government policy should be that if any person is detained in jail without trial, he should be granted adequate allowance irrespective of the fact that he had no income before his arrest.

Then, Sir, wtih regard to the amount of allowance, one outstanding fact is that Government says that persons whose income was Rs. 40 per month before arrest should not be granted an allowance of more than Rs. 40 now. Now, Sir, the money value of a rupee in 1940 was much more than that of a rupee is now. The money value of one rupee in 1940 is equivalent to five rupees in 1943-44. So if a man's income was Rs. 40 per month in 1940, it is equivalent to Rs. 200 in 1942, 1943 and 1944. So he should be given an allowance of Rs. 200 if his income was Rs. 40 before. When granting allowance to a person detained in jail, Government should particularly take this point into consideration. Sir, my submission through you to the Government is that Government should revise their policy with regard to the matter of granting allowances to the detenus.

Then, Sir, with regard to persons who have been arrested and externed, they should also be granted allowance. One Ananda Gupta was released from jail but was externed. He is an inhabitant of Chittagong but he has been externed in Birbhum. He has no means of income there and he is not given any opportunity of making any earning, nor has he any property, but still he has not been granted any allowance whatsover. Such things have happened and are happening. I know of one Chittaranjan who was a student. He is a man of Noakhali but he has been externed in the city of Calcutta. He has no means of income and is not earning anything. He is not allowed to go to his native village.

Then, Sir, with regard to other things individual cases there are many. Of course, it is difficult to cite instances, but I do fully agree with the proposal of Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri that Government should revise their policy in the matter of granting allowances to detenus and that there

should be the appointment of a committee of all parties in the Legislature to devise ways and means as to the granting of allowances to detenus and Government should make up their mind to grant allowances to all. I may cite instances of two persons: Ramesh Chandra Acharyya is a detenu in the Dum Dum Jail; he has got a sister Mrs. Induprabha Mukherji: she has fallen ill. As she is a dependent of her brother Ramesh Chandra Acharyya, she applied for an allowance, but she has not been granted any allowance. She made an application on the 24th of February but nothing has been granted to her as yet. I know of one Amulya Mukherji of Tippera. He was earning something at the time he was arrested, but has not been granted any allowance.

Sir, before I take my seat, I want to say something with regard to item No. (*ii*), namely, inadequacy of the provisions on the head "Donation for Charitable Purposes" especially regarding maintenance of famine orphans. Only Rs. 20,000 has been provided for the maintenance of famine orphans. That is a very poor and small sum.

Then, with regard to item (*iii*), viz., failure of the Government to start poor funds sought to be created under the Bengal Rural Poor and Unemployed Relief Act, 1939, I may tell the House that this is the proper occasion when such funds should have been created and Government should have made contributions to those funds. But it appears from the Budget that there is no provision for this.

Sir, I move this motion for the acceptance of the House.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 27,20,000 for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, my motion raises two pointed questions, namely, first, the inadequacy of the budget provision and, secondly, the necessity for the appointment of a committee of all parties in the Legislature to frame suitable rules for the grant of proper allowances and family allowances to the prisoners and detenus and their families.

So far as the inadequacy of the Budget provision is concerned, it is quite apparent from the budget figures. Last year the Government made a provision of Rs. 2,63,000 under this head and this year the same provision has been made. Sir, it is quite impossible in these days to provide for suitable allowances with a grant of only Rs. 2,63,000 under this head when there are so many security prisoners and the cost of food and clothing has so much increased. Here is a United Press message, Sir, dated Lucknow, the 23rd March, from which it is learnt that during the last four months more than 700 security prisoners were released from the United Provinces jails with the result that there are now 1,180 security prisoners in United Provinces jails. By the section 93 Government of the United Provinces 700 prisoners have been released in 4 months. But here is a popular Government and what is their achievement in this respect? From press-note recently published, that is, so late as on the 28th March it is learnt that 521 political prisoners have been released since the assumption of office by the present Ministry and there are at present 1,300 political security prisoners now in jails in Bengal; that is, this so-called popular Government saw their way to release 500 odd prisoners after having been

in office for about twelve months. This is the progress that their policy of release has up till now made. In view of this position it is quite apparent that this Government should adopt the next best course, namely, to provide for adequate allowances and if that be the policy of the Government as it is anxious to advertise, then it is all the more necessary to provide for suitable fund for allowances to security prisoners.

Now, Sir, as I have already pointed out, the grant that has been provided for is a very meagre grant. It is only a repetition of the grant that was made last year. Unless this grant be revised, the allowance can only be nominal. Next, Sir, you are quite aware that the Government's policy of granting niggardly allowance does not meet with approbation anywhere and does not satisfy any party. Therefore, I have suggested that a Committee should be formed of all parties to frame suitable rules for the grant of proper allowances to these unfortunate prisoners who have been robbed of their liberty and opportunities of earning without any trial whatsoever.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to reply to the cut motions moved by Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta and Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri. Sir, Mr. Datta has criticised the policy of Government in the matter of granting of family allowances. The policy adopted by the present Ministry has been explained to the House several times and I would like, Sir, to recapitulate the main points of the present policy of Government. It is this, that Government are aware of the hardship caused to the people by abnormal rise in the cost of living and that is the main reason why Government increased family allowances of security prisoners granted prior to 1st January, 1943, by hundred per cent. and by 50 per cent. in the case of family allowances sanctioned after the 1st January and before this Ministry had assumed office.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: We want to know whether Government is prepared to revise the policy of the grant of family allowances.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government consider this policy to be very liberal. Mr. Datta has said that a sum of Rs. 40 previously is equivalent now to about Rs. 200, but, Sir, that will apply to everybody. All wage-earners would be hard hit if there is any rise in the cost of living. In the case of wage-earners increase in their earnings has not doubled, but in spite of that Government have adopted a liberal policy and have granted cent. per cent. increase of allowances to security prisoners.

So far as Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri's motion is concerned, he has asked for the appointment of a committee to scrutinise the cases of family allowances of security prisoners. Government do not consider this necessary because Government have adopted a liberal policy and Government are satisfied that this is the best policy that could be adopted, and no further help from the members of the legislature is considered necessary.

So far as the question of release is concerned, after assumption of office by the present Ministry, over 500 security prisoners have been released. As to the question of family allowances, over 800 security prisoners are in

receipt of family allowances and out of 17 State Prisoners 14 are in receipt of Rs. 30 as personal allowance and 3 State Prisoners are in receipt of family allowance of Rs. 100.

So far as items (*ii*) and (*iii*) of Mr. Datta's motions are concerned regarding donations for charitable purposes, Government are already spending crores of rupees for charitable purposes. The demand under this head is a mere repetition of previous demands though Government, in view of the famine conditions prevailing, have increased grants to all charitable institutions out of their Famine Relief Fund.

Sir, with these words I oppose all the cut motions moved by the members of the Opposition.

47—Miscellaneous Departments.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Shahabuddin): Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 5,58,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments".

Mr. B. MUKHERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 5,58,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to set up Arbitration Boards or Industrial Courts to settle trade disputes.

I also move that the demand of Rs. 5,58,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100. I move this motion in order to raise a discussion about the failure of the Government to grant adequate dearness allowance to the wage-earners.

স্যার, যুদ্ধের অবস্থায় workerরা বিশেষ কোরে industial workerরা সবাই মনে করে যেন এ সময় production বাড়ে এবং কোন রকম strike কোরে বা industrial কোন রকম গণ্ডগোল সৃষ্টি করে productionএর কোন রকম ক্ষতি না হয়। এটা workerরা নিজে থেকে মনে করে এবং দেশ রক্ষার জন্য আজকে এটার প্রয়োজন। তাদের এই নীতি অনুসরণ করার ফলেতে উচিত ছিল গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষ থেকে যে workerদের সমস্ত অসুবিধা প্রভৃতি দূর করবার জন্য আরও বিশেষভাবে চেষ্টা এবং যত্ন নেওয়া। কিন্তু তার ফলে হয়েছে ঠিক উল্টো। Workerরা strike করবে না এই পণ করাতে গভর্ণমেণ্ট যেন অত্যন্ত একটা ভাবনা থেকে বেঁচে গিয়েছেন যে যাক্ মিছিমিছি এই এক হাঙ্গামা আমাদের ঘাড় থেকে নেমে গেছে। Labour Department এটার সম্বন্ধে নজর দেওয়া প্রয়োজন মনে করেন না এবং এই একটা departmentকে মাঝে মাঝে হাঙ্গাম হুজ্জুত ও strikeএর জন্য বড়ই বিব্রত হতে হত,—এ থেকে তাঁরা বেঁচে গেছেন, তাঁরা এজন্য বড়ই নিশ্চিন্ত, এবং মনে করেন এ বিষয়ে তাঁদের আর বিশেষ কিছু করবার নাই। যদিও Ordinanceএতে পরিষ্কারভাবে আছে যে Essential Servicesএ যে সব শ্রমিকেরা কাজ করেন তাঁরা কাজ ছাড়তে পারেন না এবং ছাড়লে পর তাঁরা জেলে যাবেন; তা ছাড়া যারা skilled workers তাদের সম্বন্ধেও নিয়ম আছে যে তারা একটা War Industry থেকে যদি অন্য কোথাও বেশী মাহিনা পায় তাহলেও তাঁরা সে কাজ ছেড়ে বেশী মাহিনার কাজে যেতে পারেন না, এবং যদি যান তাহলে তাঁদের ধরে জেলে দেওয়া হয়। সেখানে যেতে গেলে পর তাঁরা যে কোম্পানীতে যাবেন তাঁদেরও যেমন অনুমতি চাই, তেমনি যে কোম্পানীতে কাজ করছিলেন তাঁদেরও

অনুমতি চাই। সেই অনুমতি পেলে পর তাঁরা অন্য জায়গায় চাকরী পেতে পারেন। এমন কি চাকরীতে মাহিনা বেশী হলে পরও তাঁরা যেতে পারেন না। এই যে অসুবিধা workerদের হয়েছে Ordinance থাকার ফলে এই অবস্থার আরও প্রয়োজন ছিল গভর্ণমেণ্টের workerদের সমস্ত রকম অসুবিধা সুবিধা কি হচ্ছে না হচ্ছে তা দেখা। একটা Special Tribunal আছে কিন্তু সেখানে এই সমস্ত ছোটখাট ব্যাপারের সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা হয় না। কাজেই শ্রমিক শ্রেণীর সমস্ত ছোটখাট অভাব অভিযোগের জন্য আলাদা Industrial Court থাকা উচিত ছিল যেখানে ছোটখাট অভাব অভিযোগের আলোচনা হয়ে তৎক্ষণাৎ মীমাংসা হতে পারে। এটা হওয়া অত্যন্ত প্রয়োজনীয়। বারবার কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার Tripartite Conference ডেকেছেন—গভর্ণমেণ্ট, শ্রমিক এবং মালিকদের পক্ষ থেকে; সেখানে এ বিষয়ে আজ বছর দেড়েক থেকে আলোচনার পর আলোচনা হয় এবং তাঁরা সেখানে যে সিদ্ধান্তে আসেন সেটা কোন রকম কার্য্যকরী নয়; একটা recommendatory ব্যাপার হয়ে সেটা নষ্ট হয়ে যায়। সেটা প্রাদেশিক সরকারের হাতে ছেড়ে দেওয়া হয়, তারা ইচ্ছা করলেও করতে পারেন না। ফলে আজ পর্য্যন্ত কোন রকম Arbitration Court হয় নি। যদিও Ordinanceএ আছে যে শ্রমিকগণের অসুবিধা হলে পর তাঁরা যদি strike করতে চান তাহলে অন্ততঃ ১৫ দিনের নোটিস দিতে হবে এবং যদি ১৫ দিনের নোটিস না দেন তাহলে কোন strike হলে পর প্রত্যেক শ্রমিকের জেল হতে পারে; কাজেই এ অবস্থায় তাঁরা strike করতে পারেন না। কিন্তু সঙ্গে সঙ্গে Ordinanceএ এও আছে যে শ্রমিকেরা দরখাস্ত করলে পর তাদের জন্য Arbitration Board গভর্ণমেণ্ট দিতে পারেন। কিন্তু সেখানে এটা বাধ্যতামূলক নয়। শ্রমিকেরা দরখাস্ত করলে পর Arbitration Board বা Arbitration Court করাটা বাধ্যতামূলক না, এটা সম্পূর্ণ গভর্ণমেণ্টের ইচ্ছার উপর নির্ভর করে যে এটা করবেন কি না। তবে সেখানে আমাদের অভিজ্ঞতা হচ্ছে যত বার এই Arbitration Boardএ দরখাস্ত করা হয়েছে তার ভিতরে শতকরা ৮০ ভাগ আমাদের দরখাস্ত ব্যর্থ হয়েছে। অর্থাৎ গভর্ণমেণ্টের দিক থেকে কোন জবাব আসে নি। এমন কি এটা অত্যন্ত সোজা কথা যে যখন আমরা Labour Department গিয়ে প্রাণপণ চেষ্টা করি এই সমস্ত অভাব অভিযোগ মেটাতে তখন Departmentএর ভিতর থেকে আমাদের চুপি চুপি বলা হয় যে মহাশয়। কিছু হবে না; একটা strike স্ট্রাইক কোরে যদি আসেন তাহলে কিছু করতে পারি, নইলে আমাদের কোন রকম জোর চলে না। অতি সঙ্গোপনে তাঁরা আমাদের এই সদুপদেশ দিয়ে থাকেন, যেহেতু officially তাঁরা এ উপদেশ দিতে পারেন না। সে বেচারীদের অপরাধ নাই; বাস্তবিক এই সমস্ত কোম্পানীদের উপরে জোর করে তাঁরা কিছুই করতে পারেন না, বিশেষতঃ যদি ইউরোপীয়ান কোম্পানী হয় তাহলে সেখানে দেখতে পাই যে তার সম্বন্ধে Labour Department এবং গভর্ণমেণ্ট সম্পূর্ণ পঙ্গু। এই সমস্ত European concernএর সঙ্গে শ্রমিকদের যদি কোন দ্বন্দ বা গোলযোগ হয়, তাহলে সেই গোলযোগে শ্রমিকদের দাবী আদায় করে দিতে তাঁরা সম্পূর্ণ অসমর্থ; এমন কি তাঁরা যদি কোন promiseও দেন কোন কিছুর settlementএর সময় তাহলে সেই promiseও রাখতে পারেন না। যেমন একটা দৃষ্টান্ত স্বরূপ Tramway strikeএর কথা বলি—তাতে ঠিক হয়েছিল যে তাদের ৩ মাসের বোনাস দেওয়া হবে। একবার বোনাস দেওয়া হয়েছিল, কলিকাতায় যখন বোমা পড়ে তখন বাড়ী যাবার জন্য দেওয়া হয়েছিল এবং ঠিক হয়েছিল সে টাকা কাটা হবে না, লড়াইয়ের পর হবে। কিন্তু সম্প্রতি সেই সমস্ত কাটা হচ্ছে। এ ছাড়া আর একটা আছে dearness allowance বা মাগ্‌গি ভাতা। মাগ্‌গি ভাতা সম্বন্ধে বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট অত্যন্ত পিছিয়ে আছেন অন্যান্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের তুলনায়

প্রায় সমস্ত জিনিষের দাম ৩ গুণ বেড়েছে, price index ২৬০এর উপর এখনও আছে এবং সে হিসাবে সম্প্রতি India Governmentএর যে Ordinance বেরিয়েছে তদনুসারে অন্ততঃ ৬০।৬২ টাকা প্রত্যেক শ্রমিক মাগ্‌গি ভাতা পেতে পারে। তার বেশী হলে পর হতে পারে না এই Ordinanceএ। এটা প্রয়োগ করা হয়েছে E. P. T. Rulesএ। তার বেশী যদি কোম্পানী দেন তাহলে তাঁরা বাঁচতে পারেন না। Ordinance কোরে নিম্নতম কতখানি দেওয়া হবে তার সম্বন্ধে বাধ্যতামূলক কোন ব্যবস্থা নাই। তাই বাংলা দেশে দেখি ৪ টাকা থেকে ৭।৮ টাকা ভিন্ন ভিন্ন Industryতে। তার পরে cheap ration প্রভৃতির দৌলতে যা পাওয়া যায়—তাতে মাসিক হিসাব করে দেখা হয়েছে—Labour Commissioner নিজে হিসেব করে বলেছেন যে ১০ টাকার বেশী নয় এবং সব শুদ্ধ মিলিয়ে ১৭।১৮।২০ টাকা। অথচ আজকের দিনে পরিষ্কার scale অনুসারে যেমন যেমন cost of living বাড়ে সেই অনুসারে অর্থাৎ তৎক্ষণাৎ শ্রমিকদের cost of livingএর হারে dearness allowance বাড়া উচিত এবং আমারা দেখি cost of living যত বাড়ে তার ৭৫ ভাগ তারা পেয়ে থাকে বোম্বাইতে। আমেদাবাদের ব্যবসায়ীরা শতকরা ১০০ টাকা পর্য্যন্ত দিয়ে থাকেন, যার ফলে সেখানকার শ্রমিকরা মাগ্‌গি ভাতা ৬০।৭০ টাকা পেয়ে থাকেন। এ সম্বন্ধেও বার বার কেন্দ্রীয় সভার আহ্বানে Price Conference এবং Dearness Allowance Sub-Committee বসে এবং সেখানে প্রায় সকল পক্ষ এই সিদ্ধান্তে উপস্থিত হন যে একটা এ রকম মাগ্‌গি ভাতা দেওয়া উচিত যাতে শ্রমিকরা যেমন যেমন cost of living বাড়ে সেই অনুসারে দেওয়া উচিত কিন্তু আজ পর্য্যন্ত বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট এ বিষয়ে কোন ব্যবস্থা নেন নি বা কোন ব্যবস্থা নেবার চেষ্টাও করেন নি। দ্বিতীয়তঃ এই সমস্ত কনফারেন্সে যে সমস্ত জিনিস বেরিয়ে পড়ল তা অত্যন্ত মারাত্মক ব্যাপার। Cost of living index বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের যা আছে তাতে ইউরোপীয়ান সদস্য যাঁরা ছিলেন তাঁরা অত্যন্ত রেগে গিয়েছিলেন যে এটা একেবারেই নির্ভরের অযোগ্য এবং সেই হেতু বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের cost of living index তাঁরা স্বীকার করতে চান না, অন্য cost of living index চান এবং সেই cost of living index ভাল কোরে না করার ফলে আমরা Dearness Allowance এর সুযোগ পাচ্ছি না, অথচ অন্যান্য জায়গায় তারা কিছু পাচ্ছে, এমন কি C. P. এবং U. P. সম্বন্ধে সেখানকার cost of living index যতখানি নির্ভরযোগ্য বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের তাও নয়। এদিকে অর্থাৎ Labour সম্পর্কে তাঁরা এতখানি অমনোযোগী। এর জন্য অত্যন্ত প্রাথমিক যে সমস্ত কর্ত্তব্যগুলি করা উচিত তাও তাঁরা করেন না এবং করেন নি। এর জন্য এখানকার শ্রমিকেরা সে রকম মাগ্‌গি ভাতা পায় না এবং আজকে যদি শ্রমিকেরা মাগ্‌গি ভাতা পাওয়ার জন্য এক সঙ্গে দণ্ডায়মান হয়ে ১৫ দিন পরে strike করবার নোটিস দিয়ে দেন তাহলে পর দেখা যাবে যে strike আরম্ভ হলে পর গভর্ণমেণ্টের অন্য ডিপার্টমেণ্ট Law and Order সে তখন দেখা যাবে অত্যন্ত সুনিপুণ এবং অত্যন্ত মারাত্মক রকম efficient. Labour Department যতই inefficient হউক না কেন তাদের Law and Order শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষা করবার Department অত্যন্ত efficient এবং যদি strike আরম্ভ হয় বা আরম্ভ হওয়ার আগেই তাঁদের list থাকে যে Union Leaders কে কে আছে এবং কাকে কাকে সরিয়ে দিতে পারলে সুবিধা হয় (Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: তৈয়ার করা আছে ১নং, ২ নং।) তা ছাড়া সিভিক গার্ড বাহিনী যা ছেড়ে দেওয়া আছে—এই সিভিক গার্ড বাহিনী আর কিছুর জন্য না হউক অন্ততঃ strike breaking কাজ করা তাদের দ্বারা যে উত্তম রূপ চলে এটার সম্বন্ধে আমাদের যথেষ্ট

অভিজ্ঞতা আছে। এই জন্য বলছি যে Labour Department সম্বন্ধে বা Labour Policy সম্বন্ধে তাদের যতই inefficiency থাকুক তাদের উপরে Law and Order চালাবার ব্যবস্থা খুব ভালই আছে। কাজেই আমি বলতে চাই এই বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের Labour সম্পর্কে বিশেষ কোরে তার Dearness Allowance সম্পর্কে এবং Arbitration Board সম্পর্কে মনোযোগী হওয়া উচিত।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 5,58,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about (*i*) inefficiency and inadequacy of the arrangements for collecting provincial statistics, (*ii*) maladministration of the Labour Department and of the Labour Welfare Organisation, and (*iii*) failure to prescribe the conditions for notification of banks under the Bengal Money-lenders Act, 1940.

Sir, Grant No. 28 covering the Miscellaneous Departments, as you will notice from page 69 of the Red Book, covers various items, and as the time at our disposal is short I have to confine all these different issues under one motion.

Sir, so far as the first issue is concerned regarding Provincial Statistics, we have had previous occasion to discuss the same and my honourable friend Mr. Hirtzel of the European party has also emphasised the urgency of improving the machinery for taking provincial statistics of various sections. I will not take more time of the House on that point.

With regard to the third matter, Sir, I submit that the Government of Bengal, at the instance of certain members of this Assembly during several months past, had committees appointed and arrangements were made to draft the provisions of the Money-lenders Rules which would be required for notification of banks. One Parliamentary Secretary of the Government at the present moment was also enthusiastic at that time and there were several sittings of the committee. Draft rules were approved, so far as I remember, by the Committee, and Government had been sitting on that for a pretty long time. I would like to know whether the present Government intend to permit the notification of banks, because without this notification, Sir, many of the Bengali-managed Banks are suffering terribly today.

With regard to the second point, namely, the maladministration of the Labour Department and the Labour Welfare Organisation, I have not much time at my disposal to give details as to what I had in view. I would only invite the attention to the constant changes in the appointment of Labour Welfare Officers and the Deputy Labour Commissioner and so on. Transfer and retransfer of officers from one section to the other and the names of the officers concerned will reveal the real state of affairs and how many of them are directly or indirectly related to the Hon'ble Ministers of Government. I will not question the ability of some of them, but the manner in which some of them have been given lifts over the heads of others—they have been given special allowances when transferred to some other departments of Government—makes one doubt if efficiency has been the only criterion for arrangements of officers and appointments in this department.

With regard to the labour welfare units, I submit that Government woke up very late to discover that labour welfare units for which large sums of money were provided were not at all regularly organised under any rules made by Government. It was revealed in connection with the Public Accounts Committee enquiry last time. The Labour Commissioner himself explained that for many months he himself did not know how to deal with the matter and what would be the arrangements for labour welfare units. The money was practically left to his care to be spent in any way he liked. There were no rules framed by Government. The Public Accounts Committee recommended that there should be better administration of the funds. We do not yet know whether the assistants or officers-in-charge of labour welfare units are Government servants, and if so what are their rights and duties, how are they selected and what their qualifications are. We hear a lot of rumours, we hear a lot of gossip about this. On a previous day we had from one Hon'ble Minister a homily on purity. I shall deal with that Minister in due course when there will be time. But let him not go with the illusion that we were going to have a sermon on purity from the puritan Minister in charge of Civil Works of this Government, the apostle of honesty and fair play.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: মাননীয় সভাধিপতি মহোদয়, আজকে শ্রমিক বাজেট আলোচনায় যে কথা আমি বলিব আমি স্পষ্ট জানি সরকার পক্ষ হইতে বলা হইবে সে বিষয় এখানকার বিচার্য্য নয়। কাজেই আমি আপনার বরাবর ব্রিটিশ সাম্রাজ্যবাদের অকৃতজ্ঞতার সম্বন্ধে ২।১টি কথা বলিতে চাই।

ব্রিটিশ সাম্রাজ্যবাদ সম্বন্ধে বলিতে গেলে বলিতে হইবে তাহারা এই বর্ত্তমান যুদ্ধে এবং গত যুদ্ধে ভারতীয় জাহাজীদের নিকট হইতে যে সাহায্যলাভ করিয়াছিলেন ও করিতেছেন এবং যে কয়েক হাজার জাহাজী তাঁহাদের এই যুদ্ধপরিচালনকার্য্যে আপনাদের জীবন বিসর্জন করিয়াছেন—শুধু তাহাই নয়, তাঁদের আত্মীয়স্বজন এবং পরিবারবর্গ যে স্বার্থ ত্যাগ করিয়াছেন—তাহা এই ভারতের ইতিহাসে অতুলনীয় জিনিস। কিন্তু ইহা সত্বেও এই সাম্রাজ্যবাদ গত মহাযুদ্ধের পরে এবং বর্ত্তমান যুদ্ধে সেই জাহাজীদের প্রতি এমন কোন দয়া দেখায় নাই বা এমন কোন সুবিধা দেয় নাই যাহার দ্বারা আমরা সন্তুষ্ট হইতে পারি। এই সমস্ত জাহাজী, যাহারা এখনও হাজারে হাজারে প্রাণ বিসর্জন করিতেছে এবং ভবিষ্যতে করিবে, যাহারা অম্লানবদনে এই যুদ্ধে সাম্রাজ্যবাদের যুদ্ধকার্য্যপরিচালনার জন্য নিজেদের প্রাণ বিসর্জন দিতে সমুদ্রযাত্রা করিতেছে, তাহাদের না আছে খাইবার জায়গা, না আছে তাহাদের উপযুক্ত বসন, এবং ফিরিয়া আসিলে না আছে নিজের গৃহে স্থান। আপনারা সকলেই জানেন এই জাহাজীরা বেশীর ভাগ নোয়াখালী ও চট্টগ্রাম জেলার অধিবাসী। এই দুই জেলাতে স্থানীয় যে দুর্ভিক্ষ এবং দুর্দ্দশা তাহা কাহাকেও বলিতে হইবে না। উপরন্তু তাহারা যখন জাহাজে যাইতে থাকে তখন ব্রিটিশ এবং ব্রিটিশ [illegible] তুলনায় তাহারা যাহা মাহিনা পাইয়া থাকে তাহা অতি সামান্য। একজন ব্রিটিশ জাহাজী মাসে ২০০৲ টাকা বেতন পাইয়া থাকে অথচ একজন ভারতীয় জাহাজী মাত্র ৫৪ টাকা মাহিনা পাইয়া থাকে। এই যে পার্থক্য এ শুধু একটি নয়, তাহাদের খাদ্য, তাহাদের পরিধান এবং তাহাদের হাসপাতালে থাকাকালীন যে ব্যবহার তাহা আরও অদ্ভুত। একজন ব্রিটিশ জাহাজী জাহাজের কার্য্য শেষ হওয়ার পর যতক্ষণ পর্য্যন্ত তাহার মাহিনা দেওয়া হিসাব শেষ না হয় অর্থাৎ সে কাজ ছাড়িয়া দিলেও কিনারায় নামিয়া ও যতক্ষণ পর্য্যন্ত তাহার শেষ তারিখের মাহিনার হিসাব-নিকাশ ও বন্দোবস্ত না হয় ততক্ষণ মাহিনা চলিতে থাকে, কিন্তু

এই বাঙ্গালী জাহাজীরা এবং ভারতীয় জাহাজীরা যে মুহূর্ত্তে পোর্টে ফিরিয়া আসে এবং ফিরিয়া আসিলে পর যদি ৪ মাস বা ৬ মাস পর্য্যন্ত তাহারা মাহিনা না পায়, তাহা হইলে তাহাদের মাহিনা চলে না। তাহারা ফিরিয়া আসার তারিখ পর্য্যন্ত মাহিনা পাইয়া থাকে। তারপরে এই সমস্ত জাহাজী যখন হাসপাতালে যায় তখন অন্যান্য ব্রিটিশ জাহাজীরা হাসপাতালে গেলে তাহাদের মাহিনা বরাবর চলে, কিন্তু ইণ্ডিয়ান জাহাজী বা বাঙ্গালী জাহাজীদের সেভাবে চলে না। ইহা ছাড়াও যে সমস্ত জাহাজী জাহাজে বিকলাঙ্গ হইয়া বা enemy action এ যাহারা পঙ্গু হইয়া ফিরিয়া আসে তাহাদের দুর্দ্দশা যদি দেখেন, তাহা হইলে এই গভর্ণমেণ্টের উপর অনাস্থা প্রস্তাব না আনিয়া পারা যায় না। এই সমস্ত জাহাজীরা ফিরিয়া আসিয়াও দিনের পর দিন, মাসের পর মাস compensation না পাওয়ায় কলিকাতা বন্দরে বিনা চিকিৎসায় অনেক সময় পড়িয়া থাকে। আমরা এমনও দেখিয়াছি, এক একজন ফিরিয়া আসার প্রায় ৬ মাস পর পর্য্যন্ত তাহাদের মাহিনার কোন ব্যবস্থা হয় না এবং সেই মাহিনা পাইবার যখন সময় আসে তখন দেখা যায় নানারকমে অনেক সময় তাহাদের মাহিনা হইতে কাটিয়া লওয়া হয়। ইহারা যখন বিদেশে যায়—এমনও তুলনা আছে—একখানি জাহাজের তুলনা দিতে পারি—সে জাহাজে ৩ সপ্তাহ কোন খোরাক ছিল না; জাহাজীরা কাপ্তেনের কাছে গিয়া বলে; আমাদের খোরাক নাই, আমরা বিনা খোরাকীতে কি করিয়া জাহাজ চালাইব? তখন বলা হয় আসছে বন্দরে তাহারা খোরাক পাইবে। সেখানে যখন পায় না তখন তাহারা আবার খোরাকীর কথা বলে। তারপরে Alexandria Port এ যাইয়া বলে খোরাকী না দিলে আমরা কাজ করিব না। তখন সেই সমস্ত জাহাজীদের উপর গুলী চালনা করা হয় এবং জাহাজ থেকে নামতে দেওয়া হয় নাই। শুধু গুলীচালনা নয়, যখন তাহারা shipping master-এর নিকট যাইবার জন্য জোর করিয়া নীচে নামিতে যায় তখন ইহাদের কোর্টে নেওয়া হয় এবং বিচারে প্রত্যেককে জেলে দেওয়া হয়, এবং তাহাদের বাকী যে মাহিনা ছিল সেই সমস্ত মাহিনা বাজেয়াপ্ত করিয়া লওয়া হয়। এ রকম ব্যবহারের তুলনা নাই। এই যুদ্ধের ভিতরেও আমরা এরূপ দেখিতে পাইতেছি। অথচ এই সাম্রাজ্যবাদী ব্রিটিশ সরকার বলিয়া থাকে যে, হাঁ, তোমরা আমাদের বন্ধু, তোমরা আমাদের এই যুদ্ধে সাহায্য কর, এটা total war; কিন্তু আমি বলিতে চাই যদি এখনও, যখন শত্রু এক রকম ভারতের ভিতরে ঢুকিয়া পড়িয়াছে সেই সময়েও যদি শ্রমিকদের উপরে এই রকম অনাচার হয়, দুই রকম ব্যবহার করা হয়, তাহা হইলে কি করিয়া এই শ্রমিককুল এই যুদ্ধে সাহায্য করিতে পারে? শুধু জাহাজীর দিকে নয়, আমি অন্য দিকের সম্বন্ধেও বলিতে চাই। কিছুদিন পূর্ব্বে আমি Defence Department এর কোন Labour Welfare আফিসে যাই। দেখিলাম কি রকমভাবে আমাদের দেশে শ্রমিকদের উপর অত্যাচার করা হয়। অনেক সময় উপর থেকে জানান হয় Welfare officer নিযুক্ত করা হইয়াছে, তোমাদের উপকার করা হইবে, কিন্তু কাজের বেলা দেখা যায় এই সমস্ত শ্রমিকেরা কোন সত্যিকারের উপকার পায় না। সে বিষয়ে তদন্ত করিবার বা তার ব্যবস্থা করিবার কোন উপায় নাই। একটা দৃষ্টান্ত আমি দেখাইতে চাই। ইণ্ডিয়া গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে যখন dearness allowance পাশ করা হইল এবং শ্রমিকদের family ration allow করা হইল তখন এখানে কোন এক ডিপার্টমেণ্টের স্থানীয় কর্ত্তারা family ration না দিয়ে single ration দিবার হুকুম দিলেন। এ সম্বন্ধে পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী বক্তা বঙ্কিম বাবু বলিয়া গিয়াছেন যে, একত্র হইয়া তাহাদের কিছু করার উপায় নাই। যদি কেহ একত্র হইয়া দরখাস্ত করে তাহা হইলে Defence of India Act-এ ধরিয়া তাহাদের বিচার করা হয়। আমরা এমনই কষ্টে পড়িয়াছি যে, দরখাস্ত করার উপায় নাই, কোনও রকম ধর্ম্মঘট করার উপায় নাই, কোথাও প্রতিবাদ করার উপায় নাই। প্রত্যেক জায়গায় Welfare officer নিযুক্ত করিয়া একটা camouflage দেওয়া হয়

তোমাদের উপকার করা হইতেছে। কিন্তু সেই welfare সত্যই শ্রমিকদের কা পৌঁছায় না। সে সম্বন্ধে কিছু অভিযোগ আছে কি না সে সমস্ত যদি পুঙ্খানুপুঙ্খভা বিশ্লেষণ করি তাহা হইলে দেখিতে পাইব যে, এ সমস্ত যেমন যুদ্ধের comouflage চলিতেছে-সেইর এই শ্রমিকদের উপরে তাদের নিষ্পেষিত করিবার জন্য একটা camouflage চলিতেছে। আ এই সরকারের বরাবর কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতে চাই যে, যদি এইভাব চলি থাকে তাহা হইলে বেশী দিন নয়, অতি শীঘ্রই (সরকার পক্ষ থেকে যেরূপ provocatic চলিতেছে), যদি শত্রুপক্ষ এ দেশের মধ্যে কোনদিন আসিয়া পড়ে, তাহা হইলে এই সম শ্রমিকদের সকলে হয়ত fifth columnist-এ পরিগণিত হইয়া যাইবে। তাই স থাকিতে সরকার বাহাদুরকে বলিতে চাই যে, camouflage দিয়ে জাপানকে ধোকা দেও যায় কিন্তু যাহারা camouflage-এর net-এর নীচেয় থাকিবে তাহারা একটু একটু করি সেই net কাটিয়া সর্ব্বনাশ করিবে।

Mr. B. MUKHERJEE: ডক্টর মালিক যে সমস্ত কথা বলেছেন সেই সমস্ত শ্রমি কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের অধীন হ'লেও তা বাংলার বাঙালী, এবং অধিকাংশই মুসলমান। কাজেই আ বলছি যে বাংলাগভর্ণমেণ্ট এই সমস্ত শ্রমিকদের অভাব অভিযোগ দূরকরবার জন্য কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারে কাছে কতখানি চেষ্টা করেছেন বা না করেছেন সে কথা মন্ত্রীমহাশয় এই সময় বলুন।

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, Dr. Malik began hi speech by saying that whatever I was going to say in answer to the point raised by him was that those points do not concern the Government o Bengal. In that connection I want to say that that is not merely answer But that is a fact and he knows it perfectly well that as far as seamei are concerned it is a Central Government's concern and that the Govern ment of Bengal has got no jurisdiction over that matter. Mr. B. Mukherjee has also stated that it is primarily a Central Government subject. As fai as the Government of Bengal is concerned, Sir, I may tell him that we have got every sympathy with the seamen and from time to time wheneve opportunity has arisen we have represented their case to the Governmen of India. As a matter of fact on the last occasion when I was at Delhi I had a talk on many important matters affecting the seamen with the member in charge of that department, especially two or three points which Dr. Malik has mentioned. Sir, the result of that discussion I am not in a position to disclose here but I can assure my friends that the Hon'ble Member in charge, Sir Azizul Haque, is very kindly considering the question and it is hoped that very substantial relief will be given very soon. More than that I cannot say at present.

After the war——. (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: After the war!) Yes, after the war; but what you expect about the war will never materialise; you will be disappointed. After the war, it is hoped that the position of the seamen will be immensely better.

Sir, I shall now take up the question of dearness allowance. Mr. Mukherjee has mentioned that as far as dearness allowance is concerned this Government is not doing anything. Sir, the time at my disposal is very short and I shall not go into the details of the case. But I may inform my friend that as far as the dearness allowance is concerned reference has been made from time to time to the adjudicator by whom the rate of the dearness allowance has been adjusted on several occasions. Furthermore, Mr. Mukherjee has himself stated that along with dearness allowance there

is a system in Bengal of supplying foodgrains at concession rates. In this province, Sir, where the prices of foodgrains had gone up abnormally, this concession of supplying foodgrains at subsidized rates in addition to the dearness allowance is not a small boon that has been granted. Further, Sir, Mr. Mukherjee has mentioned about the position in Bombay. But I may inform Mr. Mukherjee that there is going on a move in Bombay to reduce the dearness allowance there. But if I suggest a reduction in the dearness allowance here I do not know how it will be received by the people of this province.

Now, Sir, so far as the question of strike is concerned, the Government policy is no longer confined to the prevention of strikes. Government have now got the machinery for the adjudication of disputes. The present policy of Government with regard to the question of Labour is that there should be security of tenure, that is, no man can be discharged except on good and sufficient grounds; no man can be punished for being a member of a trade union; adequate wages, housing, sickness, insurance, provident fund, maternity benefit, employment of women and reduction in hours of work. Sir, that is the policy of Government. So far as the question of prevention of strikes is concerned, it is true that under the Ordinance and Special Order the workers are prevented from going on strike without proper notice, but it is not correct to say that whenever their complaints are brought to the notice of the Labour Commissioner, no action is taken. I can assure the House that whenever the Labour Commissioner has failed in bringing about a conciliation he has referred the matter to Government for adjudication. And, Sir, the Government has never refrained from referring the matter for adjudication irrespective of the fact whether the matter refers to a European or Indian firm.

Mr. B. MUKHERJEE: I can cite thousands of cases where you have failed.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I can state for Mr. Mukherjee's information that he cannot mention one single case where reference for adjudication has not been made. Wherever a complaint has been made and the matter has been enquired into and referred to Government by the Labour Commissioner, the Government never refused to refer it for adjudication.

So far as the question of statistics is concerned, I admit that some time ago arrangements were not very satisfactory but recently orders have been issued for the collection of statistics for prices of commodities, housing, water-supply, indebtedness, wages and other earnings of workers. Statistics for stoppages of work, number of days and wages lost already are fairly complete. Statistics for cost of living index figures are being improved from time to time. The Labour Commissioner is already engaged in conducting enquiries into family budgets and it is hoped that satisfactory index for industrial areas would soon be published.

Now, Sir, as regards the point raised by Dr. Sanyal regarding notification of banks under the Bengal Money-lenders Act I may inform the House that although this particular matter is included in the budget of this department, actually the administration of the matter has nothing to do

with this department. I am sure that when the report of this debate is placed in the hands of my honourable colleague, the Hon'ble Nawab Sahib, he will take due notice of it.

Sir, as far as the Labour Welfare Centres are concerned, I personally feel that we have not been able to make adequate provisions for the labour centres. Within last two years labour centres increased from 10 to 32, grants from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 32,000. These centres are very useful not only for supplying information of labour unrest, but for recreation of workers and contact between workers and Government labour officers.

Sir, as far as the charges of corruption in the department and maladministration are concerned, they are very vague. No one has been able to say anything about the maladministration of the department. As far as appointments and transfers are concerned, Sir, every one knows that under peculiar conditions recently prevailing in Bengal large number of officers were taken away from one department to another department. Khan Bahadur Murshedi, who was the Deputy Labour Commissioner, was taken away to the Rationing Office. In that vacancy the man next to him, who was an Assistant Labour Commissioner, was promoted. I am surprised that these complaints have been made.

A special organisation for the recruitment of unskilled labour has been established in this province and a committee has been formed in which the Bengal Government, the Military—both British and American—and various employers are represented. It is a most important work and Mr. Abu Talib has been appointed by the Labour Commissioner as Secretary to that Committee, and in that vacancy the next man, the Assistant Commissioner, namely, K. M. Azad, has been promoted. I shall be very glad if Dr. Sanyal can cite any instance where any—what he called—relations of the Ministers have been promoted superseding the claims of any other. It is no use making such vague charges and simply going on making such insinuations. My honourable colleague Mr. Pain did say something that day and I need not repeat it, all I can say that with all the efforts the Opposition has not been able to adduce any convincing instance of any maladministration during the present regime.

With these words I oppose all the cut motions.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is about 6, one minute only remaining. I think it is desirable that I put the motions now.

5—Salt.

The motion of Mr. P. Banerji that the demand of Rs. 12,000 for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 12,000 for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Patiram Roy that the demand of Rs. 12,000 for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Shahabuddin that a sum of Rs. 12,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "5—Salt", was then put and agreed to.

57—Miscellaneous.

The motion of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta that the demand of Rs. 27,20,000 for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous" be reduced by Rs. 100 which was moved to raise a discussion about—

(*i*) the policy of the Government regarding the allowances given to State prisoners and detenus;

(*ii*) inadequacy of the provisions on the head "Donation for Charitable Purposes" especially regarding maintenance of famine orphans; and

(*iii*) failure of the Government to start poor funds sought to be created under the Bengal Rural Poor and Unemployed Relief Act, 1939,

was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—78.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Jabbar Palwan, Mr. Md.
Abdul Majid, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Esayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Asimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Badruddoja, Mr. Syed.
Banerjee, Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Barman, Mr. Upendra Nath.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhawmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das, Babu Radhanath.
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.
Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath.
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Edbar, Mr. Upendranath.
Fazlul Huq, Mr. A. K.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Golam Sarwar Hosaini, Mr. Shah Syed.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Alhadj.
Habibullah, Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Jalan, Mr. I. D.
Jenab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Lahiri, Babu Ashutosh.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Mookerjee, Dr. Syamaprasad.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Muhammad Soliuman, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mukherji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan.
Mukherjee, Mr. B.
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra.
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh.
Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi.
Nandy, Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan.
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna.
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sanaullah, Dr.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Sen, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Sen, Jogesh Chandra, Rai Bahadur.
Sen-Gupta, Mrs. Nellie.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Shamsul Huda, Maulana.
Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan.
Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar.
Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

NOES—116.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakeem, Mr. (Khulna).
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi.
Abdul Jabbar, Maulvi.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed (Noakhali).
Abdul Metaleb Malik, Dr.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Ravf, Khan Bahadur Maulvi S. (Howrha).
Abdur Razi, Khan Bahadur Shah (Rangpur).
Abdus Shaheed, Maulvi Md.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Masood, Kazi.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Badi Ahmed Choudhury, Khan Bahadur Haji.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Chakrabarty, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Chakrabarty, Babu Narendra Narayan.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Das, Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Das, Mr. Monmohan.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Gladding, Mr. D., C.I.E.
Golam Kabbani Ahammed, Maulvi.
Gomes, Mr. E. A.

Goswami, the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra.
Griffiths, Mr. G.
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hasanuzzaman, Khan Sahib Maulvi Md.
Hosina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E.
Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Haywood, Mr. Rogers.
Hendry, Mr. David.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F., O.B.E.
Hodge, Mr. H. R.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jaimuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
McPherson, Mr. G. P.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib Maulvi (Tippera).
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Mandal, the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Masud Ali Khan Panni, Al-Hadj Maulvi.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Mohsin Ali, Mr. Md.
Morgan, Mr. G., C.I.E.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Abdul Halim Mollah, Mr.
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Mukerjea, the Hon'ble Mr. Taraknath, M.B.E.
Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Pulin Behary.
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nooruddin, Mr. K.
Pain, the Hon'ble Mr. Baruda Prosanna.
Powell, Mr. J. A.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Sahebe-Alam, Mr. Syed.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Shahedali, Mr.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Smart, Mr. J. N.
Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Thorman, Mr. C. M.
Walker, Mr. J. R.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M., C.B.E.
Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C.I.E.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.
Zillur Rahman Shah Choudhury, Maulvi.

The Ayes being 78 and the Noes 116, the motion was lost.

The motion of Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri that the demand of Rs. 27,20,000 under the head "57—Miscellaneous" be reduced by Rs. 100 which was moved to raise a discussion about the inadequacy of the budget provision and the necessity of the appointment of a Committee of all parties in the Legislature to frame suitable rules for the grant of proper allowances and family allowances to the prisoners and detenus and their families was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

(AYES—76.)

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Jabbar Paiwan, Mr Md.
Abdul Majid, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana.
Aimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Badruddoja, Mr. Syed.
Banerjee, Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Barai Ali, Mr Md.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Barman, Mr. Upendra Nath.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhowmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan.
Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das, Babu Radhanath.
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.
Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Dekui, Mr. Harendra Nath.
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Eshar, Mr. Upendranath.
Fazlul Huq, Mr. A. K.
Ghosh, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Golam Sarwar Hossini, Mr. Shah Syed.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Gyanuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Alhadj.
Habibullah, Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Jalan, Mr. I. D.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall.
Kundu, Mr. Nishithanath.
Lahiri, Babu Ashutosh.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Mookerjee, Dr. Syamaprasad.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Muhammad Solaiman, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mukerji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan.
Mukherjee, Mr. B.
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra.
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh.
Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi.
Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan.
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Kamalakrishna.
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sanaullah, Dr.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Sen, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Sen, Jogesh Chandra, Rai Bahadur.
Sen-Gupta, Mrs. Nellie.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Shamsheddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Shamsul Huda, Maulana.
Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan.
Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar.
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.

(NOES—115.)

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakeem, Mr. (Khulna).
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi (Mymensingh).
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi.
Abdul Jabbar, Maulvi.

Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed (Noakhali).
Abdul Motaleb Malik, Dr.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Rasheid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Maulvi S. (Howrah).
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah (Rangpur).
Abdus Shaheed, Maulvi Md.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Masud, Kazi.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Affazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Badi Ahmed Choudhury, Khan Bahadur Haji.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prasad.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Chakraborty, Mr. Jatindra Nath.
Chakraborty, Babu Narendra Narayan.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Das, Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Das, Mr. Monmohan.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Gladding, Mr. D., C.I.E.
Golam Rabbani Ahammad, Maulvi.
Gomes, Mr. R. A.
Goswami, the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra.
Griffiths, Mr. C.
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh.
Hafizuddin Chaudhri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hasanuzzaman, Khan Sahib Maulvi Md.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E.
Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Haywood, Mr. Rogers.
Hendry, Mr. David.
Hirtzel, Mr. H. A. F., O.B.E.
Hodge, Mr. H. R.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Karam Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawar Jah Syed.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
McPherson, Mr. G. P.
Madizuddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib Maulvi (Tippera).
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Mandal, the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Manirudin Akand, Maulvi.
Masud Ali Khan Panni, Al-Hadj Maulvi.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Mohsin Ali, Mr. Md.
Morgan, Mr. G., C.I.E.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Abdul Halim Mollah, Mr.
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Mukerjea, the Hon'ble Mr. Tarakanath, M. B. E.
Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Pulin Behary.
Musharruf Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Noorudin, Mr. K.
Pain, the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prosanna.
Powell, Mr J. A.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Sahebe-Alam, Mr. Syed.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Shahedali, Mr.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Smart, Mr. J. N.
Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Thorman, Mr. C. M.
Walker, Mr. J. R.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M., C. B. E.
Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C. I. E.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.
Zillur Rahman Shah Choudhury, Maulvi.

The Ayes being 76 and the Noes 115, the motion was lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra Goswami that a sum of Rs. 27,20,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous", was then put and agreed to.

47—Miscellaneous Departments.

The motion of Mr. B. Mukherjee that the demand of Rs. 5,58,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. B. Mukherjee that the demand of Rs. 5,58,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that the demand of Rs. 5,58,000 for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan that a sum of Rs. 5,58,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments", was then put and agreed to.

11—Registration.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 23,87,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "11—Registration".

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Loans and Advances.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,56,97,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Loans and Advances bearing interest".

The motion was then put and agreed to.

56—Stationery and Printing and Depreciation Reserve Fund—Government Presses.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 31,01,400 be granted for expenditure under the head "56—Stationery and Printing and Depreciation Reserve Fund—Government Presses"

The motion was then put and agreed to.

36—Scientific Departments.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 30,100 be granted for expenditure under the head "36—Scientific Departments".

The motion was then put and agreed to.

9—Stamps.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 7,09,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "9—Stamps".

The motion was then put and agreed to.

30—Ports and Pilotage.

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 5,65,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "30—Ports and Pilotage".

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Interest-Free Advances.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 8,80,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Interest-Free Advances".

The motion was then put and agreed to.

"55—Superannuation allowances and pensions", "55A—Commutations of pensions financed from ordinary revenues", and "83—Payment of commuted value of pensions not charged to revenue."

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 83,85,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "55—Superannuation allowances and pensions", "55A—Commutations of pensions financed from ordinary revenues" and "83—Payment of commuted value of pensions".

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 6-35 p.m. till 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 1st of April, 1944, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

BGP-44/5-5995A-600

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Bengal Legislative Assembly Proceedings.

(Official Report.)

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